

## Action points from NIFF meeting with Minister Creed 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2016

1. **Submission to Minister Varadkar, Minister for Social Protection on the FISH ASSIST scheme and other social protection issues.**

**Action Point:** As the budget for October is being prepared now NIFF to make submission to Minister Varadkar, Department of Social Protection and “cc” to Minister Creed for his information. Minister Creed stated that he will support the submission.

2. **Cadmium in crabs**

**Action Point:** Minister Creed met with the Chinese ambassador and raised the cadmium issue with him and assured the NIFF that the issue was receiving a lot of attention. Crabs are still be imported into China at the present time with one batch being sent back to date. SFPA to keep NIFF updated on the situation.

3. **Penalty points system**

Minister stressed that a penalty points scheme was mandatory under the reformed CFP. Following advice from the Attorney General Ireland is now moving to points only applying following a court conviction. **Action Point:** SFPA to keep NIFF informed of any updates.

4. **Celtic Sea Herring**

In 2015 due to bad weather the inshore fleet did not catch their quota with 1200t remaining uncaught. NIFF requested roll over of the uncaught allocation into the 2016 quota. The then Minister came up with alternative solution where he sought a once off increase for 2016 via the CSHMAC. The proposal was not supported by the required majority and it has returned to the Minister for a decision.

**Action point:** The DAFM outlined the requirement to keep quota resources in public ownership. This policy was established in 2012. The simple rollover of the uncaught quota could be construed as conferring a property right. Therefore any request for an increase in the November/December allocation should not seek a roll over but rather a specific once off increase because of the loss of access due to bad weather in 2015. The Minister stated that he is willing to bring any submission in this regard to Public Consultation so that all of the fishing sectors views are taken into account. The Minister encouraged NIFF to make submission and suggested it should particularly emphasise the bad weather in 2015.

5. **Velvet crabs – minimum landing size**

WRIFF brought proposal on the introduction of a minimum landing size for velvet crabs to conserve and improve their sustainability to NIFF for consideration

**Action Point:** NIFF is supportive of the proposal but it has made the decision to put the proposal forward to all the RIFFS for their support and/or comments. When all the RIFFs have come back to the NIFF, the NIFF will bring forward the proposal to the Minister for consideration.

## 6. Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Maritime Spatial Planning Directive

DAFM gave overview of the implications of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Marine Spatial Planning Directive. The MSFD is seeking to ensure that each member state takes appropriate action by 2020 to maintain or achieve Good Environmental Status. Good environmental status will be measured against a set of indicators. For example commercial shellfish stocks must achieve MSY by 2020. MSFD is being led by DG Environment which set out targets for MS to achieve. A recent worrying proposal was that 70% of a member states waters should be untouched by human activity. Member states have rejected this and it has been dropped for the present.

The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) are the lead department with technical support from the Marine Institute. The Maritime Spatial Planning Directive is also under the DHPLG. This is in the preparatory stages with workshops are being held around the country to take account of stakeholders views.

**Action Point:** DAFM have identified NIFF as a group that needs to consult in this process. The inshore sector needs to start gathering information on where they are fishing (track record) and any other issues so that they have the information at hand to feed into the process at the early stages. An Inshore Fisheries Forum strategy would be ideal vehicle to present to DHPLG to represent NIFF view on what areas could be identified and to represent their economic benefit (value of the fishery, who and what they support etc. ) if developed.

The Minister also reported that he chairs the inter-departmental group on all marine matters nationally- not just fisheries.