

## Action points/decisions from West RIFF Meeting 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017

### **Inshore Strategy:**

The meeting agreed with the sentiments in the report back from NIFF in developing a Strategy for the Inshore Sector. The members willing to serve on the steering group should inform the NIFF Secretary. The meeting was of the opinion that all matters relating to inshore fisheries should be included in this strategy. This would include the blockages to inshore fishermen to upgrade and the difficulty young fishermen have in obtaining licenses due to the escalating costs of capacity.

The inshore sector should be consulted on the issue of the new proposals on Voisinage and the negative impact the new proposals would have on inshore fishermen.

### **Velvet Crab:**

There was a sense of disappointment that the proposal for the introduction of a minimum landing size for velvet crab has not progressed. The RIFF noted the comments and the position taken by the NIFF and support the NIFF position.

### **Bivalve Working Group:**

The West RIFF strongly recommends that on opening a new razor/bivalve fisheries that a management plan for the fishery should be developed before the fishery opens. The management plan should include all stakeholders and should be covered by an SI so that the plans would have a legal standing.

### **Clifden Bay Razor Fishery:**

There is a need for a stock survey to decide on a TAC, followed by a post stock survey meeting of all the stakeholders to decide on a voluntary fishery management plan for the year ahead. This meeting should take place in early August.

### **Crab Declawing:**

#### **West RIFF position on proposal no 2 :**

The West RIFF cannot support proposal no 2 as drafted for the following reasons:

The current SFPA approved facilities do not have the capacity to handle the volume of crab that would be landed and most of these facilities are not easily accessible to most inshore boats.

The landing of extra boxes of crab would add to costs of fishermen and the processors.

The West RIFF alternative to the proposal no 2 are:

Increase the minimum landing size to 140mm and no crab under that size to be landed.

No crabs should be landed or retained under proposed new minimum landing size for any purpose including crab for bait.

**Tuna Catch and Release Proposal:**

The members decided that that the W RIFF secretary and the sea angling representative should work on a draft proposal in the autumn and circulate it to the other RIFFs for their consideration.

**BIM Grants:**

There was some concern by a member of the RIFF as to the delay in opening the re-engining grant scheme administered by BIM.

W RIFF Chair to write to Fisheries Development Director of BIM to ascertain the present position of the re-engining grant scheme.