



## Action points/Decisions from Internal NIFF meeting 7<sup>th</sup> June 2018

### Matters Arising/ Main Agenda items

#### i. Inshore Strategy

It was reported that the Strategy Steering Group met twice following the RIFF strategy development workshop in Galway in order to finalise the draft document developed. It was noted that this document was not the draft strategy *per se* but set out the issues, vision and objectives with a view to seeking input from the wider sector in developing actions to address the issues and deliver on the vision and objectives.

**Action Point:** Draft public consultation document to be circulated to all RIFF as soon as possible with one week allowed for any feedback.

#### ii. Overarching razor clam management proposal from Bi Valve Working Group.

A substantial discussion was held with regard to the proposal brought to the meeting. At the last NIFF meeting the main items of this proposal had been discussed and the Department Representatives present stated that they had taken these on-board to be further developed with feedback from the IMG.

**Action Point:** Department to keep NIFF informed on development of overarching SI governing opening of new Razor beds.

#### iii. Lobster TCM review

A discussion was held with regard to what position the NIFF wished to take on this issue. It was stated that if legislative change was desired, that a proposal would need to be put forward by a RIFF. The North RIFF has already drafted such a proposal.

**Action Point:** North RIFF to forward their proposal to all other RIFFs for discussion and a working group to be formed with two members from each RIFF (potting reps if possible) with the first meeting to be held no later than mid-July.

#### iv. NERIFF Scallop Proposal

This proposal was originally drafted in November of 2017 and since then other statutory measures that affect the proposal have been introduced. **Action Point:** The NIFF chair will work with the MI on revised wording and on this basis the proposal was unanimously supported by the Forum.

#### v. SWRIFF Crayfish proposal

This item was deferred to the next NIFF meeting to give time for all RIFFs to give feedback or put forward alternative proposals.

**Action Point:** The MI will make available the latest scientific information to the RIFFs in order to make an informed decision before the next NIFF meeting.



vi. **NWRIFF Mackerel and Spurdog proposals**

The two measures contained within the Mackerel proposal - a) removal of the 500kg trip limit and b) increasing the 400t hand-line allocation had previously been sought by the NIFF without success. It suggested that as the 400t allocation has never been fully taken by the sector that it might be best to seek removal of the trip limit which should facilitate the full use of the 400t allocation at which point a good case for an increase in the allocation could be made. A discussion was had with regard to the 500kg per trip limit and how the use of insulated fish bins and ice by all vessels in the fishery had overcome the main reason for this limit being introduced in the first place – poor temperature management leading to poor quality and histamine issues with the catch. It was unanimously agreed that a revised proposal to remove this limit should be drafted and brought to the next meeting.

**Action Point:** NWRIFF to redraft their proposal to seek the removal of the 500kg per trip limit only and NIFF chair to find and circulate explanatory note on quota types.

With respect to the proposal on spurdog it was explained that the TAC was set at zero for spurdog (with a small by-catch quota) and therefore no directed fishery for this species could take place. It was noted that new scientific advice was due in 2020.

**Action Point:** Clarification on spurdog position and outlook to be sought at next QMAC and IFSRP meetings.

vii. **BSA Crab Effort**

kW days are now becoming an issue in the BSA for 10m vessels as there are currently 19 vessels using the allocation and vessel numbers and effort are increasing. Log sheets are not being submitted in a timely fashion and this has resulted in significant overshoots in the past few years. These have then to be addressed through very expensive effort swaps with the French. The situation is OK for 2018 as the requisite swaps have already been made however it is necessary to start thinking about a Management Plan for 2019. At the previous NIFF meeting 22.02.2018 the SFPA agreed to make information available on the historical uptake of kW days available to the SE, SE and West RIFFs via the NIFF secretary. This information is still outstanding. **Action Point:** SFPA to make information on the historical uptake of kW days to the NIFF secretary to forward onto the SE, SW and West RIFFs .

viii. **Quota availability for smaller vessels (item requested by DAFM)**

The DAFM representative told the members that the issue of quotas for smaller vessels had come up at committee and that it was felt that operators of these boats may not be aware of what is available to them. A number of examples were given:

- Celtic sea herring Aug. to Dec., vessels under 20m may fish without an authorisation but must book in.
- Dunmore box Herring, open fishery for under 12m, must book in.
- 100 tonnes of horse mackerel quota set aside for under 12m
- 5 tonne monthly catch limit for mackerel for under 18m polyvalent (hook and line excluded)

In order that all vessels are informed, it was suggested that at the next RIFF meetings, guidance on how to find this information be given, link to published quota be provided on the inshore forums website, and if possible, that the NIFF chart out the quotas available into one spreadsheet. It was noted that much of this info was also included on the current public consultation document on trawling inside the 6nm.

**Action Point:** DAFM to tabulate quota information and circulate to next NIFF meeting for distribution to the RIFF

**ix. Island Fisheries (Heritage Licence) Bill 2017**

Following extensive discussion on the issue and the submission already made it was decided to allow the submission made to the JOC to stand. No NIFF member was available to attend the JOC hearing to present NIFFs views on the issue however a NRIFF member stated that he would be attending on behalf of IMRO and as he had a fundamentally different view on the Bill he would not be able to represent the NIFF position on the issue.

**x. Public Consultation on trawling inside the 6nm limit.**

**Action Point:** Following a discussion on the issue it was agreed that the Chair would take the document which was used and agreed by the NIFF to formally submit provisional observations to the DAFM as requested (This document was based on a mandate from the RIFFs following a lengthy internal consultation period) and make minimal edits to the same to create a draft document suitable for a submission to the public consultation, for the adoption and submission by the NIFF in advance of the deadline of the 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018. .

**xi. National Fishermen's Development Group**

**Action Point:** Clarification sought on distribution of meeting notes from the National Fishermen's Development Group to the NIFF Members as they have not received any in recent times. NIFF secretary to follow up.

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