

SW Regional Inshore Fisheries Forum

Riverside Park Hotel Macroom Co Cork

18th November 2016 10:00 hrs

Action Points

1. Lobster management

Action Point Ascertain what the environmental aspiration is towards lobster data gaps.

1. **Action point** Circulate by email the information already available on Spurdogs from UK for RIFF members to consider and comeback with suggestions for January RIFF meeting.

Invite Dr Maurice Clarke to January meeting to inform RIFF about status of Spurdog in Irish waters.

2. **Action Point:** Business Code of Conduct to be circulated. Remaining members need to read and sign Business Code of Conduct. VOD

3. NE RIFF proposal regarding Gear restrictions on vessels targeting *Nephrops* (prawns) inside the six mile limit on the Irish Sea. **Action Point** In light of the SW RIFF position to promote sustainable Inshore Fisheries it unanimously backs the case made by the proposal to optimise the socio economic fabric of the inshore sector.

4. Fishery Improvement Plan-Brown Crab. **Action point** All members of SW RIFF and industry members who attended the information meeting on the FIP Macroom on August the 10th 2016 will be invited to the next meeting of the SW component of the national Brown Crab FIP. VOD to send email list to FFleming

5. Brown crab clawing & management **Action Point** Enquire from the SFPA have there been any case taken in relation to declawing brown crab under the current legislation.

6. Sprat Fisheries **Action Point** how much sprat is landed by volume in Cork and Kerry?

7. Technical Conservation Measure -Alternative to 110mm SMP **Action Point** Request BIM to include a comparative trial between T90 mesh and the 110mm Square Mesh Panel for the avoidance of small whiting in their 2017 work plan. Back ground: The introduction of the 110 SMP has meant an undue burden on smaller vessels. The introduction of Technical Conservation Measures under FMN 741 of 2014 has effectively removed a pre-existing derogation for vessels under 110KW without any scientific

advice. Given the lack of scientific evidence of the effect of a 110mm Square mesh panel on trawls towed by smaller vessels (less than 200HP engine power) alternative TCMs should be explored for vessels of this size due to the disproportionate effect on these vessels. This request is test the efficacy of T90 mesh in comparison to 110mm SMP for vessels of less than 200 hp in the scientific trials.

Action Point: Can V notching be extended after October even if the claim is not made until the following year to facilitate v-notching for what is now a year round fishery?