

## Action Points to be brought to the next NIFF meeting from the SE RIFF meeting of the 04<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

### 1.1 Draft RIFF policy on engaging with the ORE sector

It was recommended by the SE RIFF that the text of policy document be modified to include as well as fishers being informed consulted with and by ORE representatives (including FLOs), that other seafood entities that rely on inshore fishing should also be informed/consulted with.

For example, the following text be modified to include the change highlighted in bold – *‘In recognition of the established statutory process, the RIFF should always recommend that inshore fishers **and other appropriate entities that depend on inshore fisheries**, who are concerned and may be affected, get access to all relevant information and make a submission’.*

### 1.2 Inshore Management Group observations on the SW RIFF proposal supported by the NIFF on lobster v-notching and maximum landing size

The SE RIFF states that the 127 legislation is a matter of concern for fishers in the SE region and recommends the next 2 year review recommended by IMG should include;

- An examination of the impact of the >127mm legislation on displacing effort, putting additional pressure on fishermen and stocks closer to the shore.
- Examine other alternative management measures to the >127mm measure
- The sustainability of lobster and crab stocks should be examined together due to the interdependence of both stocks/fisheries, and should be connected to the large increase in fishing effort as a main issue.
- Provide a greater regional/local breakdown of the data etc.

### 1.3 Revised proposal on “Supporting responsible fishing and handling of brown crab”

The SE RIFF wish to state that in its view there are cases where bi catches of crab from netting do result in catches of claws greater than 30kg (closer to the 75kg current allowance for netters) such as those targeting turbot. The SE RIFF are concerned about the sustainability and decline of crab stocks but do not see this proposal as making a significant contribution. The following is proposed;

- A major review/study and debate with inshore fishermen of pot fisheries (as suggested in agenda item SE RIFF Action Point number 1.2 above) should be carried out examining the wider issues such as the increase in gear/effort, and the potential for other more measures such as to increase the maximum size to 150mm
- Outside of the permitted bi catch landing of claws, proper enforcement of the need for an improved premises onshore to claw crab is more relevant to this issue.
- A compromise proposal is suggested to allow 75kg as a bi catch for netters during the months of June July and August as this is the period that species such as turbot are targeted, and then change to 30kg for the remainder of the year.
- Ways to improve the quality of crab to be examined.

### 1.4 NIFA proposal supported by the SW RIFF on increasing the minimum mesh size for gill netters targeting HAKE in the BSA to 120mm

The SE RIFF state their agreement/support for this proposal. However contingent on the condition that if any changes to the existing legislation to enact this proposal would result in



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a change effecting inshore fishermen in ICES Area VIIa & g (by way of for example changing the mesh size use by inshore netters fishing outside of the proposed area), then fishermen in these ICES areas must first be consulted with.

## Action points from the SE RIFF meeting for communication/follow up outside of the NIFF

N/A

