

Approved Action Points/Decisions from NIFF meeting via Teams on the 3rd September 2020

1. Review of committees that NIFF members sit on

Due to the resignation of the NIFF chair at the end of July 2020 a number of positions on committees NIFF sit are vacant and the majority of the committees need alternates when the representative is not in a position to attend. Vacancies were discussed and a number of positions filled. The importance of NIFF representation on committees such as the EMFF Monitoring Committee were highlighted.

Action Point: NIFF secretary to update spreadsheet with positions filled or changed and circulate to the NIFF members. NIFF members to come back to NIFF secretary if they are interested in any committee where there are still vacancies or where an alternate is required. New NIFF members were encouraged to become involved in the committees.

2. Income supports for inshore fisheries

The issues affecting the inshore sector due to the COVID-19 pandemic including the lack of demand for fish and shellfish with the resultant poor prices causing a crisis in the industry and very low fishing activity levels was outlined. A long discussion took place on the issues fishers had with the temporary voluntary tie up scheme in particular the use of sales notes as the only accepted way to show proof of sales and the rate of payment offered in the scheme. This was followed by a discussion on how the rates of payment in the tie-up scheme were calculated and the use of DCF data for this purpose. THE DAFM noted that the Minister decided on the scheme based on the information available and presented for consideration with respect to the supports available under the EMFF. The closing date of the 17th September 2020 for the COVID-19 pandemic payment was raised and it was decided to request an extension to the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection.

Action point: a.) Write to the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection requesting an extension to the closing date for applications for fishers to allow those who can continue to fish in the autumn continue to do so and then apply at a later date. Clarification also needs to be sought for those who have previously been on the PUP payment if they can reapply after the 17th September if their circumstances have changed and they can no longer fish. b.) Write to the new Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Charlie McConalogue T.D. requesting an urgent meeting with the NIFF to discuss impacts on the sector due to COVID-19 and income supports. It was suggested that the NIFF prepare a document proposing measures that could be put in place over the next number of months to help the sector and develop a prioritised list of issues which would introduce the inshore sector to the new Minister. c.) It was suggested that a sub-group be formed to look at the DCF to see how the data is collected and used and examine how it can be improved to collect the data the inshore sector needs. BIM noted that the Strategy Implementation group is working on this issue and would revert to NIFF with progress.

3. Update on management of landing of crab claws

The revised proposal on Supporting responsible fishing and handling of brown crab Version 1.2 was circulated to the RIFFs for comments before the NIFF meeting. The four RIFFs who had discussed the proposal were happy with the changes to the definition of establishments where the removal of claws from brown crab may be carried out. A number of RIFFs however had an issue with the absolute limits proposed for both those fishing with pots and creels and those

fishing by other methods and suggested reverting to using the EU limits in Regulation (EU) 2019/1241. It was noted that it is easier to enforce absolute limits than a catch percentage. There was a lengthy discussion on what the appropriate limits should be to reduce deliberate clawing at sea.

Action point: The MI to re-examine the data used to calculate the limits for further discussion at IMG. The revised proposal with MI input is to then go back to the RIFFs for further discussion.

4. [Presentation on the use of iVMS data to identify fishing events and quantify fishing effort – Marine Institute](#)

MI gave a presentation to update the NIFF on the pilot project on iVMS which has been in place on 150 vessels around the coast. Analysis of the iVMS data collected is being used to develop an Application that has potential to monitor and estimate fishing effort (pot numbers) in near real time which would give an accurate way to quantify fishing effort at sea with output to a mobile phone or other device. It can demonstrate the future potential to view fisheries effort and data.

Action point: MI to make a broader comprehensive presentation on the pilot project to the RIFFs to increase their awareness. MI to send presentation onto NIFF secretary to circulate. As this pilot project comes to an end in December 2020 this project to be further discussed at next NIFF meeting to see how it can be continued.

5. [SE RIFF proposal on Introduction of mandatory registration for Recreational Fisheries under SI No. 31 of 2016 and West RIFF proposal on Temporary Cessation of SI No. 31 of 2016 \(non-commercial pot fishing\).](#)

The proposal was circulated to the RIFFs for comment before the NIFF meeting. The NIFF members outlined their views on the proposal from each of their RIFFs. The views varied from full support of the proposal with added conditions to simply enforcing the existing legislation. The importance of education of recreational fishers with information on all legislation covering lobsters, crab etc. and promoting an awareness of the conservation efforts by commercial fishermen such as v-notching was also stressed.

Action point: The NIFF to discuss this proposal and the issues surrounding it further especially the issue of enforcement. The issue of education needs to be addressed as there are a lot of people continuing to fish illegally.

6. [Another meeting called to address the remainder of the agenda](#)

As there were remaining items on the agenda and the meeting had gone on longer than anticipated it was decided to halt the meeting at this point and hold another meeting to finish the agenda potential during the week of the 14th- 18th of September if possible. **Action point:** NIFF secretary to circulate potential dates to the NIFF members.

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