

DUBLIN

New Chairman elected to NIFF

THE SKIPPER DECEMBER 2015

Following recent meetings around the coast of the regional forums, representatives from the National Inshore Fisheries Forum (NIFF) met in Dublin to elect a new Chairman for its organisation, the position became vacant after Ciaran Quinn stepped down as chairman on the forum. Alex Crowley was unanimously selected by all present as chairman of NIFF and acting interim Chair Eddie Moore remains as Vice Chairman.

In a statement newly elected Chairman of NIFF Alex Crowley said, "I believe a great amount of credit should be given to both Ciaran Quinn who was the first NIFF chairperson and Eddie Moore who acted as interim Chair following Ciaran's resignation,

both have done tremendous work in moving NIFF forward and achieving some of its goals. I am looking forward to working with the other representatives of NIFF and continuing the work that they have initiated for the inshore sector at national level."

The latest meeting of NIFF took place on the 10th of November at Agriculture house in Dublin, NIFF representatives met with Minister Simon Coveney and his Department, BIM (Bord Iascaigh Mhara), Marine Institute and the SFPA (Sea Fisheries Protection Authority) and aside from appointing Alex Crowley to the position of chairman a number of other pressing issues were dealt with, in what has been described as a very constructive meeting.

A wide range of topics were raised and discussed at length including;

- (i) The recreational/ Noncommercial potting issue.
- (ii) The cost that must be borne by the industry when trying to get new bi-valve fisheries classified and opened and potential measures that could be introduced to help alleviate that cost.
- (iii) The Lobster Maximum size regulation and the option of reviewing it.
- (iv) NIFF's request for a position on the Celtic Sea Herring Management Advisory Committee.
- (v) A plan for further development of line caught fisheries. This plan has come from industry through the regional forums.
- (vi) The activities of large foreign owned factory ships currently operating off the NW coast.

- (vii) The conflict between vessels of different sizes in inshore waters.
- (viii) The potential benefits of having a commercial bluefin tuna fishery and a herring fishery in the NW of Ireland for the inshore sector.

At the meeting NIFF also stated that it supported the recommendations in the Indecon report on their review of Marine Taxation, for the extension of the VAT exemption to vessels of less than 15GT, the recommendations on Social protection as outlined in the Report of the Working group on safety training and employment in the Irish fishing industry.

The NIFF hope to meet again early in the New Year and it is expected that the RIFFs will meet before then.