



Action Points/Decisions from pre-meeting of NIFF 25th October 2016

Matters Arising/Updates

1) Celtic Sea Sentinel Herring

Public consultation completed and extra quota (500t) obtained on a once off basis. **Action point:** As only small amounts of herring are allocated at the beginning of the season when weather is more suited to inshore boats the SE RIFF has proposed that a request is sent to the CSHMAC to allocate larger quotas at the beginning of the season and then smaller towards the end of the season. The SE RIFF will draft an e-mail which will be sent to all NIFF members for their comments/approval within 3 days and it will then be sent onto the CSHMAC.

2) NW Herring update

All the updates on the NW Herring have been done by e-mail and a proposal has now been accepted. Vessels have been invited to take part in the NW Herring Scientific Fishery with a closing date of the 1st November.

Action Point: The NIFF will continue to get updates on the situation from the QMAC.

3) DG Mare SSCF project

Action Point: NFFO who were coordinating this project on measures to support small-scale fisheries in the Western Atlantic have informed the EU that they wish to withdraw from the project. **Action Point:** A member of the NIFF who is a fisherman actively involved in the decision making process has been invited to attend a seminar in Malta in December by the coordinators of the project on measures to support small –scale fisheries in the EU Mediterranean section of this project. Any interested NIFF members to let the NIFF secretary know within a week of this NIFF meeting.

4) IFF Website

Action Point: The NIFF website had been live since August 2016. It will be officially launched by Minister Creed following this meeting.

5) Query's regarding PFDs

Action Point: NIFF secretary forwarded response to NIFF queries from BIM training section to all NIFF members before this meeting. Action now complete

6) Social Protection

Chair outlined what the NIFF had been done so far regarding social protection. NIFF secretary had circulated the response from Department of Social Protection on the NIFF queries from the NIFF meeting in June. **Action Point:** NIFF chair to thank Minister Creed at the meeting to follow and acknowledge his efforts he made on the new tax credit for the fishing industry and the mention of FISH Assist. The NIFF is waiting to see what comes out in the Welfare Bill. The NIFF to also remind the Minister that they are available to meet with the Department of Social Protection to outline the problems they have accessing social welfare when they need it. The Mutual Funds for adverse climatic events under the EMFF was also raised. BIM explained that this was a fund that could be set up by the industry and the EMFF would match the amount in it in a like to like fashion up a maximum amount provided for in the OP.

7) Inshore EMFF Scheme

Action Point: BIM reported that the Inshore EMFF scheme is with the DAFM at the moment. The scheme will be launched by the beginning of 2017.

8) Brexit Consultative Committee

Action point: Two meeting of the Brexit Consultative Committee have taken place at which NIFF was represented. NIFF needs to come up with a policy position if a relevant issue comes up at this committee. It was reported that the biggest concern are the effect of Brexit on the food sector and currency. There was also concern expressed regarding shared access to stock in the Irish and North Sea. A NIFF member will continue to attend these meetings as they arise.

9) Proposal to introduce a MLS for Velvet Crab

This proposal was brought to NIFF at the NIFF meeting 21/22nd June, 2016. At that meeting it was decided that the proposal would need to go to all RIFFs for their support or comments.

The following were the RIFF decisions:

- 1 RIFF proposed the measure
- 2 RIFFs support the proposal as it stands
- 1 RIFF abstained
- 2 RIFFs support the proposal with conditions:
 - 65mm minimum size to 70mm minimum size
 - 10% tolerance level

This to be discussed further at main NIFF meeting with the Minister.

10) N. Irish Sea Razor Management Update

There is no update and the situation has reached a stalemate. The NE RIFF asked if DAFM can attend a meeting with them. DAFM reported that they cannot enter into dialogue with any member of the Razor Association at a meeting as a solicitor is involved and it would be more prudent to put everything in writing. However they did stress that they have no issue speaking to the NE RIFF. **Action Point:** This topic is shelved at the moment until there is movement however the possibility of meeting with the NE RIFF would be explored.

11) Development of Strategy for the IFFs

Action Point: Inshore Conservation Scheme should be launched very shortly. The Development of a Strategy will be put on the agenda for the proposed meeting between the RIFF secretaries and the NIFF members.

12) Marine Spatial Planning

The SW RIFF have raised Marine Spatial Planning as an action point. They want to know how the DAFM and its agencies can help the inshore sector prepare for MSP. The MSP will be there to help resolve conflicts and be a framework for decision making. The MI informed the members that the Natura report showing the distribution of inshore fisheries around the coast of Ireland is the best spatial information we have at the moment. The MI is hoping to produce an Atlas of Inshore Fishing which would be a good first step and a basis for a discussion on how we can improve the data. **Action Point:** Once BIM bring the FLAG strategies together we further discuss how we bring the inshore sector into MSP at our proposed meeting between the NIFF and the RIFF secretaries.

Main agenda items

1) Proposal to form an IFFs Bi-Valve Working Group

This proposal was circulated prior to the meeting and the following was discussed and agreed on: Although the SE RIFF was not in the TOR of original proposal the West RIFF is happy to include them. The NE RIFF wasn't included as they did not propose any areas to be classified as most of the relevant areas are already classified in the NE area. It was agreed

that the NIFF members from the NE RIFF could act as the NIFF representatives on the Bi-valve sub-committee. **Action Point:** BIM was asked if they could provide a secretary for the meeting of this sub- group. BIM stated that resources are very tight and they would see if they could provide a secretary. The issue of running costs of this sub-committee was raised and it was noted that the inshore conservation scheme may be able to provide funding. This proposal to be brought to the next meeting of the IMG to discuss, industry is happy to proceed with it. It is hoped that the classification period would be completed within 6 months. If an area has been previously classified it should not be a problem to reclassified it. Once the classification process is completed the Bi-valve working group's TOR could be extended to include management.

2) **Public Consultation on Replacement Capacity**

Two RIFF have asked if the DAFM can do a briefing on the Replacement Capacity proposal. The DAFM confirmed that they are not allowed to give a talk to an individual group during the public consultation process but they could do a talk if it were a public meeting open to all. **Action Point:** The public consultation period has been extended to the 28th February 2017. The feeling so far is that there is very little support for any of the options outlined in the public consultation document and that most of the RIFFs want to maintain the status quo. No decision to date. NIFF members to go back to their RIFFs to discuss further and decide if they wish to put in a submission to the public consultation.

3) **Proposal for gear restriction on vessels targeting *Nephrops* inside the six mile limit in the Irish Sea**

Action Point: Although NIFF has no consensus on this proposal as yet it was decided to bring it to the Minister for further discussion. The NE RIFF brought this proposal to NIFF and gave a short briefing on the current situation and the problem with one size fits all. The NIFF asked what do we need to do to beef up this proposal with real data. The MI explained that they may have data to help with this proposal.

4) **Proposal to amend the Lobster Maximum Size Regulation**

Action Point: The SW and NW RIFF support this proposal. The rest of the RIFFs were asked to prioritise this proposal as January 2017 is when the reviewed-notching support ends. The RIFFs were asked to seek support through correspondence (e-mail) instead of waiting for a RIFF meeting to be called.

5) **Launch of the IFFs website**

Action Point: The IFFs website to be launched just before the NIFF meeting with Minister Creed.

6) **Date for next NIFF meeting**

Action Point: DAFM will try to see if they can get a date in the Minister's diary before the end of the year

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