

## Action points/Decisions from Internal NIFF meeting 11<sup>th</sup> December 2018

### Matters Arising/ Main Agenda items

#### i. Presentation of Inshore Strategy

The NIFF Chair began her presentation by thanking the DAFM for putting the presentation together for her. Please find presentation attached as appendix 1. During her presentation BIM went through the background to the Inshore Strategy and how it was developed. BIM noted the IFCS scheme to date has been mainly used for v-notching and support for the Inshore Fisheries Forums and that there is a large proportion of the funding still unspent. There is €1 million in funding available per year to the IFCS. BIM noted that the Inshore Strategy has been delayed by the 6nm consultation. The NIFF chair went through the numbers that had responded to the Inshore Strategy consultation and the themes that had been developed and a discussion took place on the strategy. BIM has committed to lead the implementation plan with similar structures as was set up for the strategy, steering group with NIFF members. It was noted that the results of the consultation show a strong base, that it stood up to the test and that it was agreed with. **Action point:** It is up to the NIFF/RIFFs to decide that this is what they want from the strategy. It was decided that we need an easy to understand document to validate the process. BIM has agreed to use some of the graphics from the presentation to make into a short concise document to use as a good communication tool for both the RIFFs and the marine press. The NIFF members are happy to present the draft final document on the Inshore Strategy to the Minister. The DAFM suggested that the NIFF meet with the Minister to present the strategy the last week of January, 1st week February. DAFM to check Minister's diary and come back with a date. NIFF secretary to circulate the Inshore Strategy presentation to the RIFF secretaries to forward to their RIFF members.

#### ii. Inshore Forums renewal process, review of renewal procedure, TOR and code of conduct

The revised TOR, Code of Conduct and renewal procedure were discussed, and various changes were suggested. A discussion took place on membership terms limits in particular those members who have been with the Inshore Forums from the start and the profile of the membership. Conflicts of interest were also discussed and how various organisation handle this issue. **Action point:** NIFF secretary to revise TOR, renewal procedure and code of conduct and recirculate to the NIFF for approval/comment. BIM has proposed that short training courses could be arranged on how to deal with conflicts of interests. The IPA was suggested as a provider and the course could take place early in the New Year. BIM to further investigate.

#### iii. Restrictions on trawling inside the 6nm limit

The DAFM received over 900 submissions to this public consultation and they expect the Minister to make an announcement over the next few weeks. They explained that the submissions are categorised by groups (fisheries groups, members of the public,

Environmental NGOs etc and a description (summary) is presented to the Minister for each group to inform his decision.

**iv. Minimum landing size for brown crab**

The DAFM hope to have an update for the NIFF at the next NIFF meeting towards the end of January, early February.

**v. Illegal declawing of brown crab**

This issue has been an agenda item at NIFF meetings for a considerable time. The last two NIFF meetings discussed the setting up of a sub-group to work with the SFPA bilaterally for the purpose of aiding the subgroup in interpreting existing legislation and discussing appropriate alternative terminology to the term “SFPA approved premises” again taking feedback from RIFFs to date into account. The subgroup could then develop the joint statement from the NIFF, KFO and IFPO into a proposal. This appears to have come to a standstill and a decision needs to be made as to where the NIFF goes from here with this issue. **Action point:** NIFF secretary to check timelines for this proposal and recirculate any relevant documentation so we can progress this issue and form a subgroup.

**vi. Lobster TCM review**

The NRIFF introduced their proposal on “Improved utilisation of 127mm stock by continuance of v-notching and some redistribution of v-notched 127mm stock.” A NRIFF member explained the unique situation that they find themselves in the NRIFF where they are on the border with Northern Ireland. Ireland has a maximum landing size for lobster whereas Northern Ireland does not. In waters that are fished by both Irish and NI fishers the prohibition on landing maximum size will not affect NI vessels therefore v-notching these lobsters provides a protection to the stock as there is also a prohibition on landing v-notched lobster in NI. However, when the present legislation ends on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 this will not be the case. The North RIFF will be heavily impacted by this particularly Malin Head Co-op who handle a much higher percentage of >127mm lobster than other parts of Ireland. The DAFM explained that it is difficult to do an exemption on a geographical basis legally and you must have a valid reason for confining a measure to that particular geographical location. This needs to be further teased out. It is not practical for anything to be done at the present time. MI stated that you could raise a scientific argument that Malin Head Co-op would be unduly affected. **Action Point:** The DAFM is to look at what is feasible legally and come back to the NIFF and NRIFF to work further on the proposal with Malin Head Co-op. Lobster TCM report with BIM’s input on V-notching scheme implementation needs to be completed.

**vii. SWRIFF Crayfish proposal**

This item was deferred from the NIFF meeting held on the 07.06.2018. This proposal originated from NW Kerry Co-op and is proposing to tag and mark crayfish for conservation purposes in the SW only. It is an equivalent to v-notching.

**Action Point:** NIFF secretary to circulate proposal to the RIFFs for consideration/comment before the next NIFF meeting.

#### viii **Bi-valve sub-group**

##### **Progress on overarching razor clam management SI**

This was discussed at the previous NIFF meeting and substantial revisions to the document have taken place. However, the DAFM felt that it had been so watered down that it made no sense to put it to SI and that there is now nothing substantial to put to the Minister. A member of the Bi-valve sub group explained that they couldn't get general consensus on the issue. It was suggested that maybe it is time to address this issue in a different way. Local management can work well with a small fishery and it was time to look at other options apart from an SI to address the issue. A discussion took place on whether an SI is required as local management on a voluntary basis has worked to date. The small-scale fisheries that have been opened so far are being managed and monitored. DAFM are not convinced that the proposed SI would provide any further protection. **Action Point:** The Bi-valve sub-group have a preference for a strong SI but have now decided to withdraw it.

##### **Progress on the bivalve classification protocol**

Content agreed and some small edits to be completed by DAFM. The draft was circulated to the NIFF members at the meeting. **Action point:** NIFF secretary to circulate final bivalve classification protocol to NIFF and RIFF secretaries.

#### ix. **AOB Sectoral Adaptation Plan under Climate Change**

The DAFM informed the meeting that as part of the National Adaptation Framework for Climate Change government departments must prepare Sectoral Adaptation Plans. They informed the NIFF that there would be a ramping up of the process over the next 9 months with stakeholder events and workshops. They noted that the Inshore Fisheries Conservation Scheme would need to take account of this sectoral adaptation.

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