

Decisions/Action points from North RIFF meeting held on the 28th April 2020.

1. Covid-19 payments
There was a quick discussion on how people got on applying for Covid-19 payments.
2. National Marine Spatial Planning submissions
After a short discussion it was agreed that the submissions from both the SW RIFF and the NIFF more than covered all our concerns and that there was no need in duplicating what was already stated in these documents.
3. Sprat quota uptake
We have written to the NIFF requesting they find out how much of the 2020 tonnage over 18m sprat quota has been landed so far this year. These boats were fishing sprat in January and if the quota is caught before the beginning of the sprat season in Donegal bay then there will be considerably less pressure on the stock in the deeper water like there was this last few years.
4. North RIFFs long and short-term goals
We spent a considerable amount of time on this as there was a wide range of subjects for discussion. Some were simple to deal with as they were merely just a matter of getting the relevant information that is already available. Others such as the NW Herring will be more long term and involve a lot more research. The topic of seals was mentioned and it was felt that this would be a battle too big to take on given the public perception of them. That said, it was felt that by gathering all the possible information on the effects and costs they have on fishing and also the extra costs they put on fish farming we would have some information to help when the time comes for a larger debate on the subject.
5. Recreational Pot Fishery
Another topic that was high on the list of problems with board members was the "recreational pot fishery". A lot of people said there was problems with people exploiting the loophole and fishing more than the 6 pot limit and taking both v-notched and undersized lobsters. We have started work on this problem and if anyone has any thoughts on this problem please get in touch.
6. Crab management
Crab management was discussed, and it was widely felt that some form of management is needed but what form this should take is not as easy to pinpoint.
7. WRIFF proposal on the Temporary Cessation of Fishing Activities
The proposal from the West RIFF on the subject of "Tie up aid" for inshore boats was discussed. As with any proposal from any RIFF it must get the support of the other RIFFs around the coast before it goes to the NIFF for approval. We voted to support the proposal and it is due for discussion at the NIFF meeting on the 1st May. Hopefully we will have more information on this soon.

It is important to point out that while we have discussed the issues above this is by no means the only issues we will be working on. If there are any other issues you feel needs discussing or you want information on, please get in touch.