

West Regional Inshore Fisheries Forum

08th April 2021

External Action Points

Simply Blue wave energy project off Doolin

Fisheries liaison officer for Simply Blue gave a short presentation.

Comment from members:

- Little or no data exists on grounds that are being fished that can be presented to wind energy companies.
- The importance of wind energy companies building a trustful relationship with local communities.

Action: Bring the issue of iVMS on under 10m vessels to NIFF. iVMS extended to all boats, subsidised by DAFM. Is the VMS data recorded and if so where is it stored?

5. “Expanding Ireland’s Marine Protected Area Network”

Consultation period open until July 2021 and views and comments can be submitted via

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/e00ec-marine-protected-areas/> Hard copies available at a request.

Action: Request a webinar or meeting with guest speaker.

Riff renewal

Rotation is required in the membership to balance the benefits of continuity and experience against the energy and new ideas that new members bring to the forums.

Action: 3 members from the fishing sector to be replaced and 2 members from other sectors to be replaced. New member will be sought in the coming months.

Escape traps on lobster pots

Members had positive views on this, it would help to sustain the fisheries. There was one concern that might affect the velvet fishery. Would the velvet crab escape through the escape hatch?

Action: Investigate different size hatches and the escape of undersize lobster and velvets crab.