

West Regional Inshore Fisheries Forum

27th January 2021

External Action Points

Crayfish PIN by the Marine Institute

Given the response to the PIN published by the Marine Institute (MI) on Dec 16th, 2020 the MI has revised its proposal which can be sought by contacting the MI. The document states the fisheries will not be closed in 2021. It is the intention of the DAFM to consult the industry on future options for the management of the crayfish fishery during 2021

Action: It was agreed to compile a live document to record questions asked by the WRIFF and later put forward when DAFM/MI consult with industry.

New proposal from NW RIFF on Mackerel Jigging

- The WRIFF agrees the current 400 tonnes set aside to be increased to 3000 tonnes from 2021 onwards
- WRIFF propose that the landing limit be raised to 1500kg if vessels can prove that they have a premium market and fish can be stored at optimum temperature.

Brexit issues

It was mentioned that DAFM are setting up a 'Brexit task force' to deal with matters of Brexit. The WRIFF requested that a representative from NIFF should sit on this task force.

Action: WRIFF Chair and vice chair to have this on the agenda at NIFF meeting on the 11th February 2021.

There are anecdotal reports that NL vessels are fishing day and night in IRL 0-6nm water with no repercussions. If IRE vessels enter NI 0-6nm there are intercepted by the UK navy.

Action: WRIFF chair and vicechair to raise this at the NIFF meeting scheduled for the 11th of February 2021.

IT Training for the Fishing Sector

This Item was on WRIFF meeting 04/08/20. **Action:** WRIFF chair to raise again at NIFF meeting scheduled for the 11th of February 2021.

Access to local markets and the development off

It was agreed that local markets will play an important role on the sustainability of the inshore sector in the future. Premium fresh product sold locally will benefit both the fishermen by better prices and fresh local product to the consumer. Fishers can avail of BIM Inshore Fisheries Conservation grant-aid scheme to purchase refrigeration and freezer facilities. Discussions continue on the elements that will be available when the new FLAG Programme is established in late 2021/early 2022.