

Action points from NIFF meeting via Teams held on the 16th September 2021.

1.) Support Scheme for Inshore Fisheries

NIFF chair requested that the NIFF secretary call this meeting at very short notice to discuss the Proposal for a support scheme for inshore fisheries from the inshore subgroup to submit to the Seafood Taskforce for their meeting on Friday 17th September 2021. NIFF chair outlined the background to the proposal, the number of meetings held over the last two months with BIM, DAFM and Bord Bia and other inshore representatives and the need to get the proposal completed and into the Seafood Taskforce for consideration.

NIFF members were happy with the descriptive aspects of the proposal i.e., Background, Impacts of the TCA on inshore vessels, Objectives of the Scheme and Scope of the scheme and they concentrated their time on reviewing the last two pages of the proposal starting with the Eligibility Criteria. Suggestions were made for changes under the eligibility criteria and the meeting went onto discuss the reasoning behind how the amounts in the support scheme are calculated.

Action point: NIFF secretary and NIFF chair to make the suggested changes and send into the Seafood Taskforce for consideration asap.

2. AOB: NIFF Chair and Vice Chair positions

Action Point: NIFF Vice Chair Bernard Whelan has asked John Menarry to take over the position of Vice Chair as of today 16th September 2021. John was due to take over as Vice Chair at the end of March 2021, but Bernard continued in the role till today. The decision of a rotating Chair and Vice chair was taken at the NIFF meeting held on the 30.09.2020

Action Point: NIFF Chair, Eamon Dixon whose position was due to expire at the end of 2020 but had agreed to stay on in the role has confirmed today that he will continue until the end of 2021 to see out his position as the NIFF representative on the Seafood Taskforce. He asked the NIFF members to start thinking about who will take over as Chair from January 2022.

3. Decommissioning

NIFF chair gave a quick update on the issue of decommissioning. The Seafood Taskforce are due to complete their work in the next month or two and produce a final report with recommendations for consideration by the Minister. He noted that the decommissioning proposals are nearing completion and they will have to be paid out before the end of 2022. There will be two decommissioning schemes running in tandem, the rates for decommissioning have not been agreed yet. There will be 150 vessels in all categories and sizes and there will be a lot more detail after the Seafood Taskforce meeting tomorrow. No description of yet of which vessels will be eligible. Online/offline tonnage was discussed as well as inactive tonnage.