

Action Points to be brought to the next NIFF meeting from the SE RIFF Meeting of the 25th January 2019

1.1 North East RIFF Scallop proposals

The South East RIFF has reviewed the updated 'Inshore Fisheries Forums Policy Proposal' prepared by O. Tully MI and states the following on 4 proposed measures contained within;

- 1) Dredge restrictions - SE RIFF agrees with 4 per side (8 in total in accordance with overall towing bar length), but including our stated position of a one-year adjustment period for existing boats fishing up to 6 dredges (12 in total) per side to reduce back to 4 per side (or 8 in total)
- 2) Time restrictions – SE RIFF opposes time restrictions proposed in point 2.a as they make no sense and would endanger the safety of inshore boats by compelling them to fish more in winter months with poorer weather conditions. SE RIFF agrees with point 2.b previously stated.
- 3) Geographic restrictions inside 6nm – SE RIFF has no issues with any of this as is the existing policy under point (a) and agrees with statement in point (b). SE RIFF recommends that the proposals here are considered as a first step in managing the inshore scallop fisheries, and other measures such as managing access, rotating closed areas etc. need to be looked at in the near future, which will also help to address concerns over interactions with pot fisheries.
- 4) Monitoring – The SE RIFF agrees with all of the points (a) to (d). Regarding the reporting of daily landings, while the RIFF is in agreement with this, the logistics of how this would be done need to be consulted with the inshore forums first.

1.2 West RIFF Crawfish proposal

The SE RIFF agrees with this proposal

1.3 North RIFF Lobster 127 derogation proposal

The SE are prepared to support this proposal on the following basis

- i) That funding required for v notching 127mm + lobsters in the proposed area does not impact on or curtail the ability of normal v notching (below 127mm) around the coast. The SE RIFF is keen that the level of v notching currently taking place in the south east RIFF area, and around the Irish coast generally, be at a minimum maintained, but ideally increased. Therefore, we do not wish to see any measure such as this inhibit the potential to maintain and expand the existing level of v notching.
- ii) That such a measure be introduced only on the basis that it be reviewed and subsequently agreed annually (in light of the concerns for example expressed in point i) above.

1.4 Crab BSA

The SE RIFF Recommend that the RIFF areas effected by the BSA Crab KW day restrictions agree an inshore crab fishermen's' representative, to represent crab fishermen affected in the BSA area, at the BSA crab effort industry meeting and report make to the chair of the NIFF and their respective RIFF(s).

1.5 Inshore Forums Renewal & updated TOR for Inshore Forums

SE RIFF Meeting 25.01.2019

Under the Terms of reference (TOR) and the document for the membership renewal of RIFF, the SE RIFF is concerned about the statement referring to the inshore fisheries sector concerning producer organisations '(this may include representatives of Producer Organisations)'. The SE does not have an issue of a fishermen representative to the RIFF also being the member of a PO.

However, the SE RIFF propose that an employee or director/official of a Producer Organisation be prohibited from being on the board of any RIFF, due to a direct risk of potential conflict of interest, as under 'fiduciary' such a person would have a priority obligation to represent the interests of the Producer Organisation rather than the inshore fishermen that he/she is supposedly nominated to represent.

1.6 Spatial planning – National Spatial Planning Framework – Windfarms issue with inshore fishermen

The SE RIFF has recently been made aware by one of its board members of the scaling up in the short term into production status of offshore wind farms in the area of the Arklow Bank. The RIFF member only became aware of this due to being told by the local harbour master. This activity is also referred to on page 43 of the 'National Marine Planning Framework Baseline Report'.

The SE RIFF is aghast at the total lack of notification or consultation with inshore fishermen that will be affected by this increase in offshore wind turbines in this area, and in other areas shown on page 43 to the north of the Arklow Bank area. The SE RIFF consider this to demonstrate a total lack of regard for the Inshore sector and the Inshore Forums process.

We therefore wish to request that the Minister give or seek an explanation from the relevant authority/body, as to how no consultation has taken place, and that the minister ensures that the livelihoods of inshore fishermen (such as whelk fishermen) are either protected or compensated for. We request that the expansion/installation of new turbines be ceased until consultations take place with the fishermen effected. We consider this an issue for the other RIFF areas/NIFF, as it has relevance nationally under the National Spatial Planning Framework

