

Action Points from NIFF meeting with Minister McConalogue via WebEx held on 9th December 2020

1. Presentation of NIFF discussion documents to the Minister

The NIFF held their first meeting with Minister McConalogue where they presented the discussion documents below on the challenging issues they prioritised to bring to the Ministers attention:

- Income/business supports for the inshore sector
- Maximising the potential use of the inshore sector of resources inside the 6nm/development of new fisheries
- Protecting the mental health and resilience of the sector

Action point: The Minister is happy to consider any submission made by the NIFF on the issues outlined above. NIFF to prepare submission and submit to the Minister as soon as possible for a support that can be assessed in early 2021. NIFF to bring proposals forward to the Minister as they are developed regarding maximising the potential use of resources inside the 6nm limit/development of new fisheries for his consideration.

2. Update on appeal of High Court decision to overturn the ban on vessels over 18m inside 6nm.

As the matter is sub-judice the Minister is not in a position to comment on the policy until the matter is resolved by the courts, however he reminded all those involved that he is committed to the sustainability of fishing in Irish waters and implementing the commitment made in the programme for government that inshore waters continue to be protected for smaller fishing vessels and pair trawling be prohibited inside the 6nm limit.

Action point: Minister will keep the NIFF informed of any updates to the proceedings.

3. Update on Brexit

Action Point: The Minister informed the NIFF of a briefing on Brexit with all the fishing organisations to take place the evening of the 9th December 2020.