

West Regional Inshore Fisheries Forum

07th December 2022

External Action Points

1. **Sarah Perry (BIM) made presentation on National Seafood Survey (NSS).**
Completing the survey is a condition of grant aid payment and is a legal requirement (S.I. No 132 of 210). This data assists in the strategic planning of the inshore fishing sector.
2. **Galway & Clare V-notching 2022:** There was 4.1 tons on lobster v-notched in the Galway and Clare region in 2022. It was a successful year but it was highlighted some areas on the maps still indicated no v-notching is taking place.
3. **ORE – Windfarm Survey:** The issues of surveys was raised particularly air blasting and the effects they might be having on fish stocks. Members agreed to submit a proposal that an environmental impact study should be conducted prior to the granting on surveys of this type.
4. **6NM/18m Ban:** There is still no decision made regarding this issue. WRIFF requested update and action at next NIFF meeting.
5. **Spurdog Fisheries:** Ireland will be seeking a TAC for spurdog on the basis of the ICES advice. WRIFF recommends that a fishery to be ring fenced for the inshore fleet under 15m as it will take the pressure off other fisheries such as Brown Crab and Lobster. WRIFF waiting advice before submitting a proposal in the new year.
6. **BlueFin Tuna Fisheries:** It is now understood that pelagic vessel are actively seeking for Blue Tuna quota. WRIFF agreed that a proposal should be submitted to the NIFF seek a quota for the inshore vessel for a hook only fisheries. This proposal would also include a catch and release by the charter/sport fishing vessel.
7. **Gear Recycling:** Members highlighted the issue of disposal of static gear, mainly pots. They feel that the inshore sector has an environmental obligation to dispose of gear in a proper manner. It was suggested that there should be an once off disposal amnesty and then enter into a proper way of recycling retired gear.