

Action Points from Virtual NW RIFF meeting held on the 22nd of March 2022

1. Meeting minutes from the 16th November 2021

Action Point: The draft minutes from the meeting held on the 16th November were approved by the members.

2. Update on Hook and Line Mackerel/QMAC

NW RIFF chair gave an update on the recent Hook and Line Mackerel subgroup meetings of the QMAC where they are seeking additional management arrangements for the fishery. RIFFs /NIFF feel that the current allocation is too little and they are seeking an increase in allocation before discussing further management arrangements.

Action Point: Letter with support of the NIFF submitted to Minister McConalogue on the 10th March 2022 requesting a review of the Mackerel allocation to the Hook and Line fishery.

3. Decommissioning in the Inshore Fleet

Members examined and discussed the recommendations from the Seafood Taskforce report on an inshore voluntary permanent cessation scheme. The objectives of this scheme should be to bring the inshore sector back into balance with available fishing opportunities to ensure profitability of the sector going forward and should be considered in parallel with accompanying policy development and resource management measures. NW RIFF chair explained to members that there is pressure for a decommissioning scheme for the inshore sector. Off registered/shelved tonnage, eligibility, vessels re-entering, potting P capacity etc. was discussed.

Action point: NW RIFF are not in favour of Potting “P” licenced vessels being eligible for decommissioning.

4. AOB

Draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027

This management plan was brought to the attention of the NW RIFF members. **Action Point:** NW RIFF members to examine the Draft River Basin Management Plan and revert with comments. Submission to be drafted for approval by the NW RIFF.

Rising Fuel/Energy Costs

Action Point: All members expressed concerns at the worldwide rising costs of fuel and energy and the fears that the Shellfish industry may face poor market prices owing to the massive rise in fuel for transportation to worldwide markets.

Extension to 6 and 12 miles zones

NW RIFF chair informed the NW RIFF that the Minister had secured Government approval to seek an extension of Ireland’s 6 and 12 mile zones to 12 and 20 mile zones respectively and has asked for a no take zone between 12 and 20 miles as a conservation zone.