



West Regional Inshore Fisheries Forum Meeting

12th April 2023

External Action Points

- West Regional Inshore Fisheries Forum make-up & renewal** : The renewal process was discussed and it was agreed that four seats would be renewed. The Island representative, Environmental representative and two fishing seats, one from Co Galway and one from Co Clare are being replaced.
Action: Contact Island representative group and Irish Environmental Network Pillar to seek appointments. Seek fishing representative and mandate from West Clare and South Conamara.
- ORE – update:** The Seafood / ORE working group are preparing the final draft of the Summary Seafood – ORE engagement document and will be published in due course.
Action: Distribute the document to the wider fishing community when published.
- 6NM/18m Ban:** The WRIFF support the letter sent by the NIFF to the Minister Charlie McConalogue on the 23rd March **Re: Striking Down of Policy Directive No 1 of 2019 which allowed for the introduction of a restriction on fishing by vessels >18m within the six-nautical mile limit.** The West RIFF is disappointed with the lack of response from the Minister.
Action: WRIFF Chair/Vice Chair to bring to next NIFF meeting.
- Gear disposal and recycling:** The issue of disposing or recycling of retired fishing gear was discussed. The WRIFF feels that this should not be just left with the inshore fishing sector alone to come up with a solution. WRIFF are requesting that the Department of Marine actions experts in recycling to investigate the possibility of recycling retired fishing gear. For example there was an disposal issue with silage/hay wrap in the farming sector but now it's successfully recycled.
Action: WRIFF Chair/Vice Chair to bring to next NIFF meeting.
- Environmental Impact Study** to be conducted on the effect of Geophysical (which include Multi-beam, Side-scan & Sub-bottom Profiling) and Geotechnical (Bore-Holes, Core Penetration Tests & Vibrocore which generates noise levels in excess of 200dBs).
Action: BlueWise has been commissioned to work with a sub group from the Seafood/ORE WG to look at the impacts of survey activity.
- Bluefin Tuna Proposal** – Awaiting feedback from other RIFF's and then will be discussed at the next NIFF meeting. **Action:** Chair/Vice Chair to request to be added to NIFF agenda.

