



West Regional Inshore Fisheries Forum Meeting

1st April 2026

External Action Points

Marine Institute overview

- V-notching and overview of the scheme:

Marine institute gave an overview of the scheme. The data shows, the catch rate of v-notch lobster are good around the coast but weak in Donegal and Wicklow. There are numerous reasons for this which can be seen in the

- Escape Hatches.

This item was discussed as a group more than a presentation from the MI. The status of the WRIFF DRAFT Introduction of Mandatory Escape Hatches on Pots (2023) was discussed. It halted as the Brown Crab Working Group (BCWG) report was issued at the end of 2024. It was agreed that a recommendation to legislate for their introduction should not be brought forward by the group. WRIFF suggested that the proposal should be work on further.

Action: Review old data and trials conducted on escape hatches. Investigate further the effect of escape hatches – BIM & MI

- Seasonal Fishery for Crayfish Version 1.1

Some members at the meeting said that the proposal did not go far enough indicating that the close season should be extended. Suggestions of 1st December was suggested instead of 15th December as proposed. Concerns were highlighted that this might affect the Christmas market. The Shellfish buyer representative was not at the meeting to give his view. It was agreed that if the shellfish buyer did not agree with a proposed 1st December that the WRIFF would then agree with the SW proposal of 15th December to 2nd April.

There was a confusing among WRIFF members what a closed season meant. Some said it was a ban on gear and no sale of crayfish. Other said that it was a ban on gear but sales of crayfish was still be able to continue. This halted the discussion further as clarification was need on this matter.

Action:

1. Contact Shellfish buyers in the West region and discuss the options of 1st December V's 15th December and the effect it might have on Christmas market. - BIM
2. Contact SWRIFF for clarification on what a closed season meant. - BIM





- NW RIFF revised proposal on a Policy Review on Pollack Fishing

The WRIFF is supportive of this proposal but want calcification on if the over 55ft and under 55ft don't go into the same allocation. For example for a monthly allocation of 40t

Over 55ft = 20t

Under 55ft = 5t

Hook and line 5t

Action: Contact NWRIFF to clarify. Question to be asked at next NIFF meeting – BIM, Chair & vice Chair

- ORE Update

The WRIFF ORE representee give a brief overview on the ORE. He highlighted that a National DMAP for ORE - Regional Engagement and PPS Update was ongoing. There is a schedule of date available around the country where fishermen can give their input.

Action: Inform fishermen of the regional dates – BIM

- Food Vision Seafood Sector Group Update

There were concerns in the room that the meetings were cancelled due to that the chair was not available for the month of April. It was said that this is a critical time for the sector to discuss possible supportive packages. It was said by one member whom attended the first meeting that the chair announced his full commitment to the group. It was felt that this was not the case.

- Election of new Chairman & Vice Chairman

The election did not proceed as members were missing from the meeting and in fairness it was decided that an email would be circulated to WRIFF member who could respond by email or phone call to express their interest in either position.

Action: Send email to WRIFF member

-End-

