



## West Regional Inshore Fisheries Forum Meeting

31<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### External Action Points

1. **Seafood/ORE Working Group Update:** Robert Mc Cabe Chairman of the WG gave an update on the progress of the WG and Subgroups. Data and the lack of it in the under 12m was discussed at length. It was mentioned that iVMS was to be rolled out by 2028 as DAFM policy. **Action:** Chair/Vice Chair to ask at next meet 15/02/24 will DAFM be rolling out a national IVMS.
2. **Lobster stocks & V-notching:** It was discussed with the lack of diversification, other stock under pressure, i.e. brown crab, and closing of fisheries. i.e., line caught pollock will exert serious pressure on lobster stock in 2024. As a conservation measure, escape hatches, was discussed. 20-30% of lobster caught are cripples (one of both claws missing). The result is a reduced price. Juvenile lobsters are at risk of losing claws when handled or get predated by other larger species. **Action:** It was agreed to draft proposal with the assistance of the Marine Institute on introducing a mandatory escape hatch on new pots.

