



# The Skipper

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1964-2019



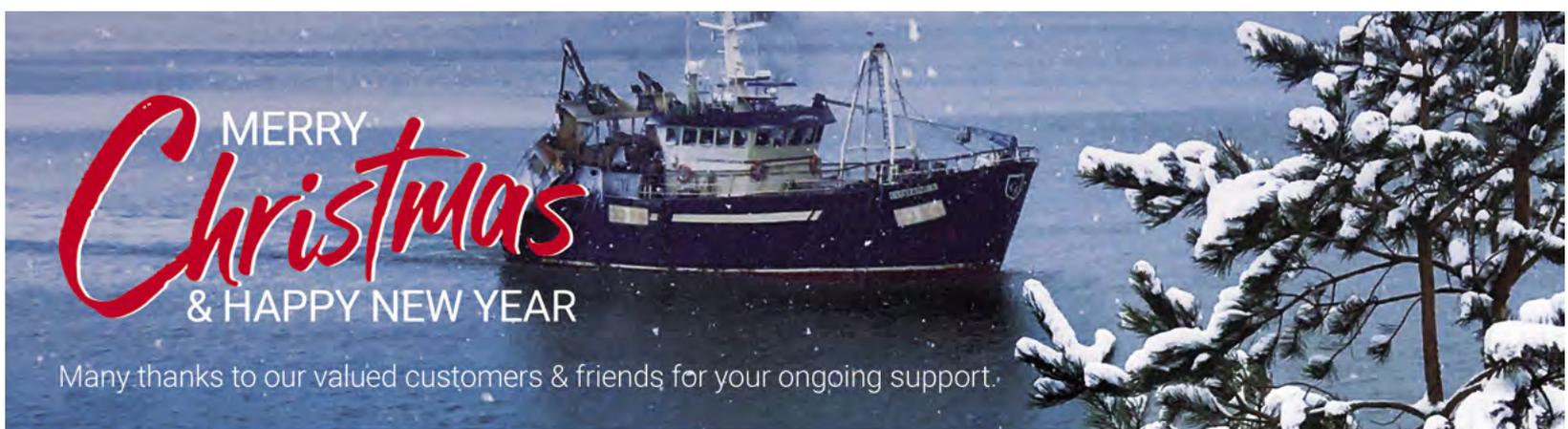
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# ZONED OUT

Will fishermen be pushed out as Government plans for competing interests at sea? see pages 2-4



TILLY WD 3 ON SEA TRIALS LAST MONTH. IMAGE: STEPHEN JONES I-FISH



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# Planning for Marine Planning



Roanarraig Organic farm.  
Image by Niall Duffy

By Lorna Siggins

**J**APANESE bullet trains travel at almost 200 miles an hour, and there's a sense that the Government is trying to match this with its new marine spatial planning framework and legislation.

The "Shinkansen-like" speed, as one industry observer put it, may have something to do with EU climate action targets, which Ireland is already missing for 2020 – and is facing large fines for, if EU goals for 2030 are not reached.

Regional public consultation events are due to be held over the coming weeks to discuss the Government's draft marine planning framework, which Minister of State for Housing and Urban Development Damien English published this November.

Just three months have been given for submissions to the framework, which is one central piece in the jigsaw designed to meet the EU requirement for national marine spatial plans by 2021.

The Government's marine planning policy statement has already been published, as reported by *The Skipper*.

The difference between "policy statement" and "framework" is that the policy statement or MPPS is "overarching", according to Mr English's department, in addressing three key aspects – (1) forward planning to (2) development management (e.g. the foreshore licensing system or aquaculture licensing) and (3) enforcement.

The framework—known as the NMPF—is looking only at the "forward planning" part of marine planning, as in setting out sectoral policies to guide activity or development over a 20 year period.

Norah Parke of the Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation (KFO) says the framework publication is a "crucial milestone" in the "long overdue process" of developing a marine spatial plan.

Congratulating the Department of Housing, Ms Parke says it provides a "basis for extensive consultation" with "all the competing demands for space in the marine environment".

The KFO is urging all those involved in the seafood industry to attend consultation events, and says that it will be "particularly interested" in progress of the Marine Planning and Development

Management Bill.

After years of long promised changes to the system of foreshore leases and licenses under legislation dating back to 1933, the new bill promises to be "revolutionary" in how the nearshore and offshore marine resource is managed.

It is anticipated the legislation will also be open for a three-month public consultation.

A new maritime jurisdiction bill is also being spearheaded by the Department of Foreign Affairs, which aims to redefine and clarify all maritime boundaries. That legislation is pulling together overlapping legislation dating back a century, and takes on a new dimension with Britain's withdrawal from the EU.

Under the new framework, one single national marine plan will apply to Ireland's entire maritime area, extending from mean high water mark on the coast to the 200 mile limits of the exclusive economic zone and Continental Shelf.

However, the draft framework says the Government is "committed" to preparation of regional or sub-national plans in future marine spatial policy cycles.

Coastal partnerships are also at "advanced" discussion

level, and may involve local authorities piloting localised marine plans where there are competing interests.

Renewable energy projects, commercial fishing, mineral extraction, aquaculture and other competing interests, including tourism, will be covered by a new single system of consent under long-promised revised legislation.

Ireland is actually one of the largest EU states if over 490,000 square kilometres of seabed off a 7,500 km coastline is taken into account, the draft framework notes.

The national marine planning framework aims to take a "co-ordinated" and "coherent" approach to management of "our most important resource", it says.

The State's "Harnessing our Ocean Wealth" strategy, has already set two economic targets – doubling the value of ocean wealth to 2.4 per cent of gross domestic product by 2030, and increasing the turnover of the ocean economy to exceed €6.4 billion by 2020.

The framework aims to plan for competing interests at a time of growing global pressure on marine resources, and aims to mirror planning policy and practise on land.

The foreshore will effectively disappear as a term, and will be replaced by "nearshore"—except in the case of aquaculture—and local authorities will have certain powers. The local authorities are currently seeking to have this "nearshore" extended to give nautical miles, whereas the department has been offering one nautical mile.

The "strategic marine zones" will be delineated beyond "nearshore", and the minister will have the right to make a submission seeking permission for designation. The criteria for this zoning will be available next year.

Draft guidelines are also due on offshore wind development.

All offshore renewable energy will be regarded as strategic infrastructure, and will be dealt with by An Bord Pleanála, and once permission is secured the developer—which may also be a community—can then enter auctions for State support.

When the new legislation is passed, consents will be issued by two departments, depending on remit – the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, and

Communications, Climate Action and Environment. The latter department will be the "landlord" for offshore renewable energy projects.

The fact that the main responsibility lies with the Department of Housing, Urban Development and Local Government is a source of some concern – in spite of the leadership shown in past regional consultations.

Questions have been asked about whether the department, which has many planning responsibilities, is adequately resourced for marine spatial planning.

There are also signals that aquaculture licensing will remain with the original system, and under the remit of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine – for no good clear reason.

Former Environmental Protection Agency director Micheál Ó Cinnéide, who is a co-founder of the Corrib Beo environmental organisation, says that State agencies with specialised expertise—such as the Marine Institute—should be given a greater role.

He has already pointed to the success of Marine Scotland as a "one stop shop" for planning and regulation.

With the Government's climate action plan driving the pace, the new legislation's small print will be keenly watched. Perhaps it is no coincidence that the developers of a large windfarm project close to the south-east coast are seeking a foreshore lease under the current regime. (see panel overleaf)

However, only seven named "legacy projects" may be able to lay claim to consent under existing legislation, according to the Marine Renewables Industry Association (MRIA).

It believes all new projects will have to wait for the Marine Planning and Development Management Bill to replace the existing Foreshore Act.

Meanwhile, Mr English's department says that offshore wind projects will receive "preference" in sea areas zoned for "strategic marine activity", according to the draft marine planning framework.

Adoption of the final marine planning framework is "expected" to be late 2020.

**Closing date for submissions on the draft is February 28th, 2020. For regional consultation dates, see panel overleaf.**



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# Meeting 70% by 2030, but how?

The Government's new target of 70% renewable energy by 2030 as part of its climate action plan means Ireland "will have to prepare now for a significant offshore wind capacity in our system", Minister for Communications and Climate Action Richard Bruton has said. It is anticipated that the new marine planning and development legislation won't apply to a number of "legacy" projects (see list).

Its imminent publication may also be driving attempts by developers to secure Government approval under the existing foreshore legislation. The application by energy company Energia Renewables, formerly Viridian, to conduct feasibility surveys for turbines along the coast from Helvick Head to beyond Dunmore East has caused concern, with the South East Regional Inshore Fisheries Forum saying it was "blindsided".

The Energia application for a foreshore licence seeks to undertake surveys for a windfarm that could generate 600MW to 1000MW.

Britain's Walney Extension, one of the largest offshore windfarms in the world, generates 659MW.

Helvick fisherman David Tobin says that lack of communication over the project is one of the biggest issues, along with its proximity to shore.

"Even if there is employment in these projects, it may be that developers bring in their own teams, and use the larger ports," he points out.

"There needs to be better way of contacting coastal communities - all communities and port areas should be contacted, and it shouldn't be discovered by chance," he says.

The Government's new marine spatial

planning strategy aims to make such developments more transparent, but Tobin points out that the three-month consultation periods for the framework and legislation are "too short".

Interestingly, the Western Development Commission believes that there should be a greater role for community owned energy projects - extending to coastal communities. It is hosting a conference in Galway on December 11th on the issue.

It points out that 31% of total renewable energy production in Germany is owned by its citizens compared to 0.14% in Ireland.

The new Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS) will allocate 10% of auction capacity for State support to community owned projects, the WDC anticipates.

It says there will be supports in place for communities such as: technical assistance, planning assistance, risk free financial assistance for possible applications, independent advisors, and priority grid access for community owned schemes.

Ireland has about one-third of all of the current European Union's total renewable energy resource based on all sources of energy, according to the MRIA.

It describes the offshore resource of wind and wave in Ireland as of "remarkable scale", with what it terms "clear, well documented and substantial economic benefits to be derived from exploiting this resource both to meet domestic energy needs, to enable major new exports and to prompt the emergence of a global supply chain base in Ireland".

In its analysis of how other countries have handled it, it notes that in Scotland, zones for offshore renewables development were recognised in advance of the 2015 Scottish National Marine Plan.

## "Legacy" Projects

The seven "legacy" Irish offshore renewable projects which may lay claim to consents under existing legislation are:

- Irish Sea - Codling Bank, Fred. Olsen Renewables and Hazel Shore Ltd; 220 turbines in range 2.5MW - 5 MW; may seek a further 200 turbines.
- Irish Sea - Parkwind Oriol, Parkwind NV and local investors; 330 MW (off Co Louth).
- Irish Sea - Dublin Array, Innogy Renewables Ireland and Saorgus Energy; 600MW.
- Irish Sea - Sure Partners Ltd, SSE (Scottish and Southern Energy) Renewables; 494.8 MW (off Co Wicklow).
- Irish Sea - Gaelectric, North Irish Sea Array (acquired by Element); up to 750MW.
- Irish Sea - Hibernian Wind Power, ESB; MW not specified (off Co Louth).
- West coast - Fuinneamh Sceird Teoranta, FSTeo; 100 MW (off Skerd Rocks Co Galway).

## Regional Consultation Dates

Regional public events on the draft marine planning framework were being held in late November in Limerick, and Westport, Co Mayo (Nov 26th). The December dates are for Galway (December 2nd), and Tralee, Co Kerry (December 10th), with further events in Killybegs, Co Donegal, Bantry, Co Cork, Dungarvan, Co Waterford, Dublin and Wexford expected.

Details of the Western Development Commission conference on community-led renewable energy on December 11th in Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry, Co Galway are on: [www.eventbrite.ie](http://www.eventbrite.ie)

Marine Renewables Industry Association's briefing on marine spatial planning can be found at: [www.mria.ie](http://www.mria.ie)

# South West fishermen slam Minister's welcoming of blue whiting allocation



Minister Creed's welcoming of the blue whiting quota "agreed" for Irish fishermen for next year has invited sharp criticism from fishermen in the South West.

In late October, north-east Atlantic coastal states reached agreement on mackerel, blue whiting and Atlanto-Scandian Herring quotas for 2020. Regarding blue whiting, Norway, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, and the European Union agreed to set the TAC for 2020 at 1,161,615 tonnes.

In a press release following the agreement, the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine welcomed the agreement reached in London and said it "provides welcome stability in this important fishery for Irish fishermen."

"There will be a small increase compared to 2019 with a quota of approximately 38,500 tonnes in 2020 for Ireland," he said. The Minister went on to say that with current uncertainties "stability for our fisheries sector is always welcome."



Sarah David & Ronan Ross, ISWFPO. Image Niall Duffy

"The agreement reached following the negotiations this week, in which Ireland was an active participant, will provide a quota worth approximately €11.5 million for our fishermen next year," he said.

"This follows the international negotiations two weeks ago which agreed to a 41% increase in the Mackerel quotas for 2020 in line with the scientific advice, giving Ireland a mackerel quota of over 78,000 tonnes worth over €80m directly to our catching sector for 2020."

The Irish South and West Fish Producer's Organisation (ISWFPO), however, were quick to point out the allocation of 38,500 tonnes out of 1,161,616 tonnes for Ireland's fleet, so celebrated by Minister Creed, at some 3 per cent of the quota amounts to mere "crumbs".

Echoing concerns expressed

by the organisation relating to the spread of benefits from the mackerel boost received by the Irish fleet earlier this autumn, the ISWFPO asserted 91 per cent of those crumbs would go to a total of 23 Irish boats. And with a tiny 9 per cent, 27 other Irish boats would gather mere dust, they said.



Patrick Murphy

In this regard, Mr Patrick Murphy, CEO ISWFPO expressed the organisation's

frustration with the Minister, who they highlight is appointed to serve all of the people in this country equally, "in his announcing to the Country how pleased he is that once again 18 people owning 23 fishing vessels are to receive the benefit of 91% of a National quota of 38,500 Tonnes of fish, being the €11.5 million in value Blue Whiting fishery allocated to Ireland's Fishermen."

Mr Murphy went on to state that in the same fishery "27 other fishermen, holding exactly the same Licence entitlements under his Department's Policy are forced to go into a lottery, with the lucky recipients of a Permit to fish each getting a maximum of 400 tonnes."

"This year their 9% share of Ireland's National Quota equals 3460 Tonnes allowing a mere 8 boats to partake in the fishery," he said.

"This is 8 out of 27 Fishing Boats receiving some 400 Tonnes each, or thereabouts, while each and every one of the guaranteed 23 RSW sector segment boats will get a massive 1,523 tonnes each. The remaining 19 boats not in the protected RSW segment of Ireland's fleet will get nothing and will remain tied to the pier wall.

"So," he questioned, "when the Minister speaks of Stability for our Fisheries Sector in these uncertain times, exactly which fishery sector is he talking about..."

"SUCH INJUSTICE!" he exclaimed.

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# WESPAS ACOUSTIC SURVEY 2019

Fisheries Ecosystem Advisory Services (FEAS), Marine Institute

The WESPAS acoustic survey, the largest of its type in European waters, was carried out in June/July covering waters from northern Biscay to north of the Hebrides. The survey provides an opportunity to monitor the feeding and spawning phases of some of our key pelagic resources including herring, horse mackerel and boarfish. The survey is multi-disciplinary, incorporating research programs in collaboration with national third level institutions.

The survey began in mid-June in the southern Celtic Sea and worked progressively northwards over a 42-day period providing synoptic coverage of shelf seas from northern Biscay to northern Scotland.

Stock abundance estimates (by age) for boarfish, herring (Malin Shelf and Celtic Sea) and horse mackerel were calculated from acoustic detections and biological data obtained from trawl sampling. The information was submitted to ICES for use in the stock assessment process, where applicable.

### AREA COVERAGE

The survey covered the continental shelf waters from 47°30' N to 59°30' N extending westward to the Porcupine Bank (Figure 1). Survey effort and geographical coverage were maintained in line with previous surveys to ensure continuity in the time series of stock abundance estimates. In total, the survey covered 5,950 nmi (nautical miles) over 57 transects with a total area coverage of over 61,180 nmi<sup>2</sup>.

Survey scientist Ciaran O'Donnell said "WESPAS covers an enormous area and provides a unique opportunity to monitor important

ecosystem drivers that influence population growth, reproduction and feeding success of our key target pelagic species. By better understanding the underlying processes that influence the success of young fish, we are better placed to understand the dynamics of these stocks and how to manage them".

### MALIN SHELF HERRING

Malin Shelf herring were distributed further south in 2019 compared to 2018. Herring detections were concentrated in an area to the north and west of Tory Island (south of 56°N) in 6.a.S and to the west of the Hebrides in 6.a.N, particularly north of St. Kilda (Figure 2). Although the total spawning stock biomass in 2019 was lower than that for 2018 for the WESPAS survey area, the final estimate for the combined Malin shelf herring stocks will only be known when the biomass from the survey of 6.a.N carried out by the RV Scotia at the same time is included.

There were good signs of 2-wr (winter ring) and 3-wr herring distributed in 6.a.S during the survey for the first time in a number of years. There were fewer young 1-wr herring caught on the survey in 2019 compared to 2018; however, this survey is not designed to capture juvenile herring. The age profile available from the trawl samples in 2019 indicates that 2-wr and 3-wr herring make up 59% of the total biomass and 65% of the abundance. Maturity analysis indicates that 79% of herring (total stock biomass) were mature (39% of 2-wr, 88% of 3-wr fish, and 100% of fish of 4-wr and older were mature).

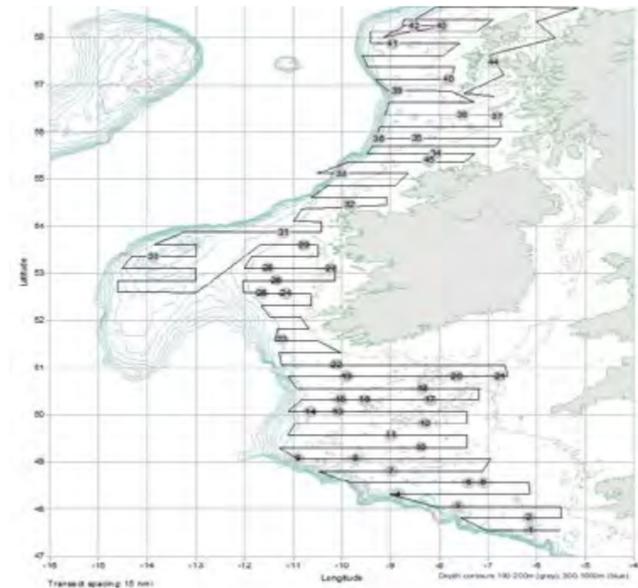


Figure 1. Survey tracks and trawl stations 2019.

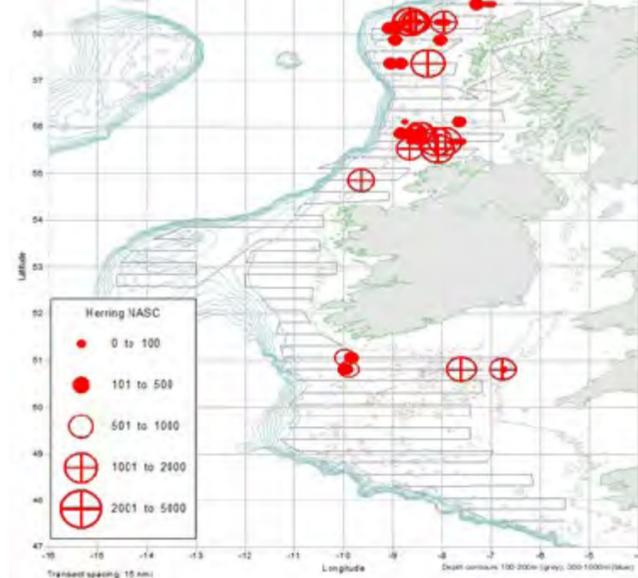


Figure 2. Herring distribution of the Malin Shelf herring (6a, 7b,c) and Celtic Sea herring (7g,i) stocks.

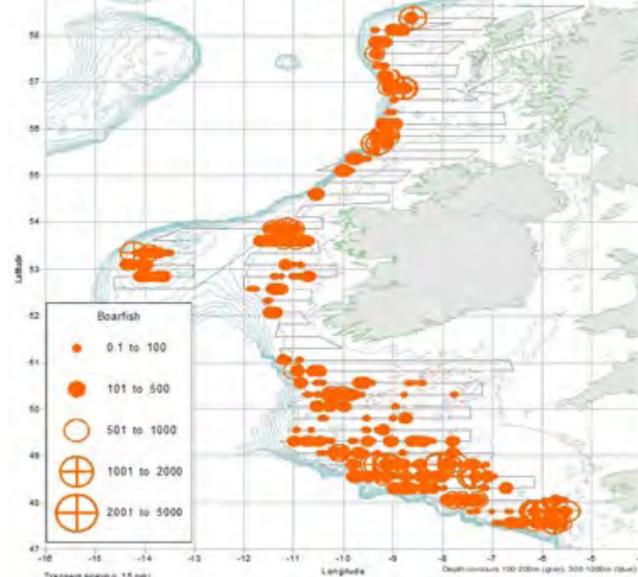


Figure 3. Boarfish distribution

### BOARFISH

The distribution of boarfish in 2019, followed a similar pattern to previous years with schools of variable density widely distributed over the survey area (Figure 3). The highest occurrence was recorded in the Celtic Sea where over 62% of the estimated stock biomass was observed. This was followed by the west coast with 21% of total biomass. To the west of Brittany, an area of high concentration of schools composed of immature boarfish (1-2 years old and less than 8.5cm) were observed. The number and size of which was higher than has been observed during recent surveys. Maturity analysis of boarfish samples indicated 94.5% of the observed biomass was mature (69.3% for abundance).

Overall, the biomass of boarfish observed in 2019 was 4% lower than in 2018 with a slight increase in area coverage (7%).

### HORSE MACKEREL

Horse mackerel were most frequently observed along the west coast of Ireland and Celtic Sea, where the bulk of the total estimated biomass was located (Figure 4). Observations of horse mackerel along the west coast and Celtic Sea were comparable to 2018 in terms of

distribution, although the number of schools and overall acoustic density were lower.

The Celtic Sea stratum contained the largest proportion of biomass (78.4% of total biomass), followed by the west coast (19.2%), western Hebrides (2%) and Porcupine Bank (0.4%). Overall, the distribution of horse mackerel was more patchy than that observed in 2018. With the exception of the southwest of Ireland were both medium and high-density schools detected.

Maturity analysis of horse mackerel samples indicated 98.1% of the total bio-mass was mature. Maturity analysis by age class showed that 25% of 1-year-old fish were mature, rising to 100% for fish two years and older.

Overall, the biomass of horse mackerel observed in 2019 15% lower than in 2018 with a slight increase in area coverage (7%).

### CELTIC SEA HERRING

Herring were observed in two distinct areas; in the western and eastern Celtic Sea (Figure 2). One winter ring fish (~18.5cm) dominated the total estimate, representing 65% of total biomass and 72% of total abundance. Two winter ring fish (~21cm) were also evident (30%). In combination, these two immature ages classes

represented over 95% of total biomass with mature fish, accounting for the remainder. This emerging year class was first identified during the Celtic Sea herring acoustic survey in October 2018.

O'Donnell added "During the October herring survey last year we observed an indication of positive

signal of young 0-group herring spread over the wider survey area. During WESPAS, we were able to track this year class appearing now as 1-year old fish. The herring survey in October we will allow us to monitor the progress of this cohort as it begins to join the adult spawning population over the coming years".

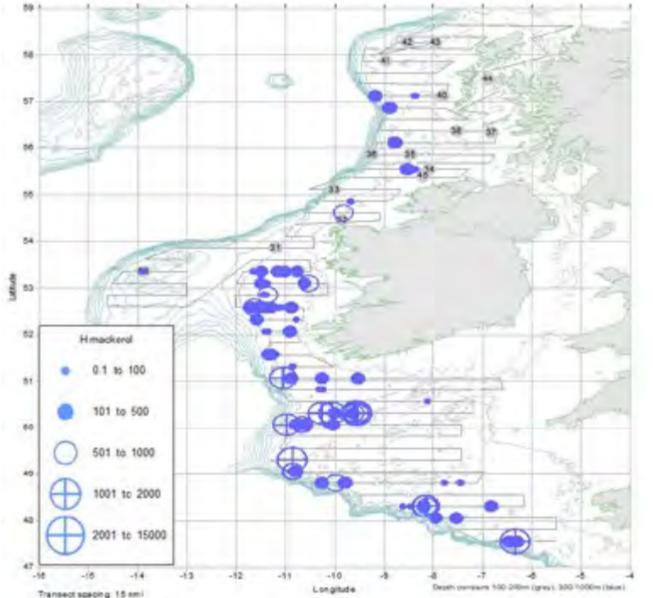


Figure 4. Horse mackerel distribution

## National Fisheries College of Ireland

### Schedule 2019

<p><b>Second Hand Full</b> - 06 January-24 April, NFC Castletownbere</p> <p><b>Enhanced Safety Training (Under 15m)</b> - 05 December, NFC Greencastle - 09 December, Cromane, Co. Kerry, contact 087 6837134 - 10 December, NFC Castletownbere - 11 December, Cromane, Co. Kerry, contact 087 6837134</p> <p><b>Elementary First Aid on Board Ship STCW-95</b> - 29 January, Lettermore, Co. Galway, contact 087 6837134</p> <p><b>Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting (3-day)</b> - 16-18 December, NFC Castletownbere</p> <p><b>Medical First Aid Aboard Ship</b> - 11-13 December, NFC Castletownbere - 16-18 December, NFC Greencastle</p>	<p><b>Safety Training (3-day)</b> - 02-04 December, NFC Greencastle - 03-05 December, NFC Castletownbere - 03-05 December, Youghal, Co. Cork, contact 087 2334620 - 10-12 December, Cromane, Co. Kerry, contact 087 6837134 - 14-16 January, Lettermore, Co. Galway, contact 087 6837134</p> <p><b>GMDSS Restricted Operators Certificate</b> - 09-12 December, Youghal, Co. Cork, contact 087 2334620</p> <p><b>QQI Level 6 Commercial Scuba Diver</b> - 24 February-27 March 2020 (pre-week medical course 17-21 February), NFC Castletownbere</p> <p><b>Surface Supplied Diver (3 weeks)</b> - 06 April-01 May 2020, NFC Castletownbere</p>	<p><b>GMDSS Short Range Radio Proficiency (Modules 1 &amp; 2)</b> - 03-05 December, Cromane, Co. Kerry, contact 087 6837134 - 20-22 January, Lettermore, Co. Galway, contact 087 6837134</p> <p><b>Passenger Boat Proficiency</b> - 19-22 November, Cromane, Co. Kerry, contact 087 6837134</p> <p><b>NFC Greencastle +353 74 938 1068</b> <b>NFC Castletownbere +353 27 71230</b></p> <p>To confirm the mobile training schedule on the west coast please contact 087 6837134 and on the east coast call 087 2334620. Funding for the course fee and subsistence costs may be available through BIM's Seafood Training Scheme.</p>
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# Huge effort from Irish fishermen on clean oceans initiative

In late October, The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Michael Creed, TD, welcomed the increase in trawlers and other fishing boats now signed up to Ireland's Clean Oceans Initiative.

The Clean Oceans Initiative involves fishermen storing and returning to land marine plastics that come up in their nets daily as they fish, thereby removing this pollution, 80 per cent of which comes from land-based sources, from the marine environment.

The Minister launched the Clean Oceans Initiative in January this year at Union Hall setting a very ambitious target for the participation of the entire Irish trawl fishing fleet in the scheme by 31st December 2019. To date, 168 trawlers and 56 other fishing boats have signed up with 12 ports registered and involved in the Initiative.

Vessels participating in the Fishing For Litter campaign under the Clean Oceans initiative have brought in more than 69 tonnes of marine litter in the last three months alone.

Minister Creed said "It is heartening to see the numbers that have come on board and that

*"Just sign up to it, you're actually already doing this at sea anyway and you're not getting any credit for it. All the lads at sea have been doing it for years."*

**DAMIEN TURNER,  
SKIPPER,  
CASTLETOWNBERE.**



Image by Cathal Noonan, courtesy of BIM

we are now at 70% participation. I would like to thank every boat owner who has joined up".

Minister Creed sought to go further; "We need to get every single trawler on-board for this. This is good for the fishing industry and good for the environment." The Minister added, "I'm delighted that the Fisheries Producer Organisations endorsed this Initiative and are encouraging their members to sign up and get involved."

Protecting our oceans is

one of 17 Global Goals that make up the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. By the end of the third quarter this year, approximately 70 tonnes of marine plastic waste had been collected from 12 of Ireland's busiest fishing ports and 25.5 tonnes of used fishing nets have been collected for recycling by BIM's mobile shredder, the 'Green Machine'.

Minister Creed expressed his thanks to BIM and to those leading the early brigade "I must

commend all those currently involved in the Clean Ocean's Initiative being run by BIM and the longstanding commitment many in the fishing industry have to bringing ashore plastic waste from the sea. I look forward to seeing 100% participation by our trawling fleet by the end of this year."

*Applicants are advised to sign up online at <http://www.bim.ie/fishing-for-litter/> or by contacting BIM directly at (01)2144100.*

## Ombudsman says quota negotiations must be made public

In late October, the EU Ombudsman, Emily O'Reilly issued a formal recommendation for the EU Council to "proactively make public" documents relating to

the December Council quota negotiations "at the time they are circulated to Member States or as soon as possible thereafter."

The recommendation comes on the back of an inquiry

following a legal complaint made by ClientEarth—an environmental organisation which in 2017 reported £11,428,856 in earnings—against the Council with respect the

transparency surrounding the annual quota setting decision making process.

The December Councils will take place in Brussels on December 16th and 17th.

## Dutch challenge EU pulse ban

Fishermen in the Netherlands have begun a legal challenge to the EU's ban on pulse trawling. The challenge was mounted in October when the Dutch Minister for Agriculture, Carola Schouten filed an application with the European Court of Justice (ECJ) calling for the ban to be overturned.

Ms Schouten, in a letter to the Dutch parliament, said that the EU Council and Parliament have breached several parts of EU law, claiming also that the ban is out of kilter with available science, and harms innovation and technological development.

A ban on the controversial practice, which is carried out

primarily by Dutch fishermen, is currently being phased in, following a vote in the EU parliament last April. A full ban is due to come into full effect in 2021.

Since then a number of countries, including France, have moved to ban the practice in their territorial waters. Earlier this year, Sinn Féin MEP Matt Carthy called on the Irish government to start the process of prohibiting pulse trawling in Irish waters immediately.

Unsurprisingly, the attempt to overturn the European wide ban has met with fierce criticism from a number of quarters – not least, UK inshore fishermen who fish in the North Sea, and say

that since the introduction of the practice they have seen declines of sole, cod and seabass in areas where pulse fishing is carried out, with some also reporting large amounts of dead fish on the water.

A study—the first of its kind to assess impacts of pulse fishing in the field—published this year by the UK's Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) found 57 per cent species losses in areas where pulse trawling is carried out – a figure close on three times that observed in fishing areas without pulse trawling.

The study also found that in areas with pulse trawling there

were 2.6 times less common soles, while half of thornback rays had also disappeared. Areas with pulse trawling also saw an increase in fragile brittle stars and scavenger species such as hermit crabs – which scientists say are signs the whole ecosystem is more at risk.

Criticism has also come from the environmental non-governmental organisation BLOOM who, alongside inshore fishermen were at the forefront of the campaign to see the practice banned in European waters and earlier this autumn filed a third complaint to the European Commission against the Netherlands regarding the practice.

## Landing obligation has increased workloads for fishermen

The EU Social Partners in Sea Fisheries—European Transport Workers Federation (ETF) and Europêche—have adopted a joint resolution on the socio-economic impact of the EU landing obligation on the fishing industry.

The regulation on the landing obligation was adopted in 2015 and has been gradually implemented since then. It aims at reducing unwanted catch by obliging fishing operators to land all caught fish. On one hand, it is supposed to allow for better monitoring of the use of fishing quotas, and on the other, it should incentivise the operators to invest in more selective gear.

However, and as most fishermen are only too well aware, the landing obligation was introduced without any prior impact assessment of the socio-economic and safety consequences. It is already evident that the measure poses several concerns regarding the well-being of people who fish and economic performance of the sector, say the Social Partners.

As all catch has to be landed, the issue of chokes arises. The quota for specific species is very quickly used, leading to area closures, which means that fishing opportunities for other species are impacted. In addition, as fish not suitable for direct human consumption also have to be landed, the economic

performance of the fishing sector is affected. According to the EU Social Partners in Sea Fisheries, the obligation is therefore contradictory to Art. 39 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU which stipulates the objective 'to ensure the optimum utilisation of the factors of production, and thus to ensure a fair standard of living for the fisheries community by assuring the availabilities of supplies'.

Another issue concerns the storage of catch. An increased volume of fish onboard impacts working conditions. At the same time, due to gross tonnage limitations, it is not possible to use larger vessels that could accommodate this increase. The operators, therefore, need to make more fishing trips to compensate for the losses linked to landing of unwanted catch. Fishers, in turn, face more work onboard due to increased load handling. And the landing obligation has, therefore, led to increased labour on-board, reduced resting time and underutilisation of rightful fishing opportunities.

On account of these factors the EU Social Partners have called on the European Commission to revise the "ill-conceived and not fit for purpose EU landing obligation" so that it is consistent with other legal instruments adopted by the EU, in particular, Directive 2017/159 and the

Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. As part of that, they have also called on the Commission to raise the procurement of socio-

economic data on how fisheries policies impact the working conditions and safety standards of fishermen.

## Engine reliability



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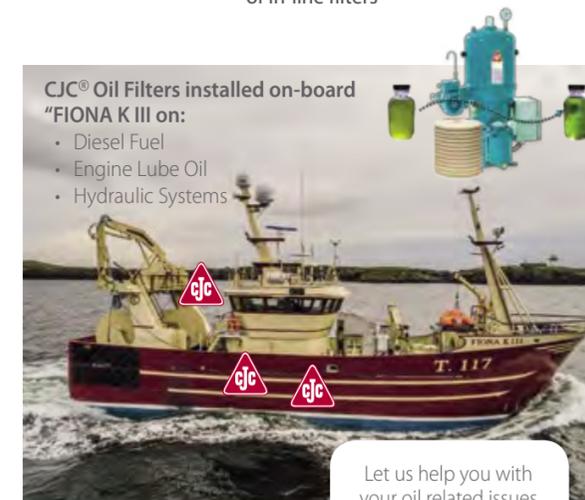
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# Happy Christmas & A Peaceful New Year

from all at Bord Iascaigh Mhara

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Table 1: Stocks with proposals for increased Total Allowable Catch (TAC)

Common name	Scientific name	TAC Unit	Final TAC in 2019	TAC 2020 (Proposal)	TAC change 2019-2020 (Proposal)
Anglerfish	Lepidion	7	25299	25299	0%
Anglerfish	Lepidion	8a, 8b, 8d and 8e	8371	8908	6%
Common sole	Solea	8a, Union waters of subdivisions 22-24	592	533	0%
Common sole	Solea	7a	414	457	10%
Common sole	Solea	7e	1242	1478	19%
Common sole	Solea	7f and 7g	1009	1528	51%
Haddock	Melanogrammus aeglefinus	7b-k, 8, 9 and 10; Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1	8329	10893	30%
Herring	Clupea harengus	7a	6805	3064	57%
Megrim	Lepidorhombus	Union waters of 2a and 4	2897	2922	1%
Megrim	Lepidorhombus	7	18132	18732	3%
Megrim	Lepidorhombus	8a, 8b, 8d and 8e	1704	1794	5%
Megrim	Lepidorhombus	8c, 9 and 10; Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1	1872	2089	12%
Plaice	Pleuronectes platessa	7f and 7g	1662	2003	21%

Table 2: Stocks with no changes in Total Allowable Catch (TAC)

Common name	Scientific name	TAC Unit	Final TAC in 2019	TAC 2020 (Proposal)
Common sole	Solea	6; Union and international waters of 3b; international waters of 12 and 14	57	57
Common sole	Solea	7b and 7c	42	42
Greater silver smelt	Argentina silus	Union and international waters of 1 and 2	90	90
Greater silver smelt	Argentina silus	Union waters of 3a and 4	1234	1234
Herring	Clupea harengus	7e and 7f	930	930
Ling	Molva molva	3a	170	170
Ling	Molva molva	Union and international waters of 1 and 2	36	36
Ling	Molva molva	Union and international waters of 5	33	33
Ling	Molva molva	Union and international waters of 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 14	20396	20396
Ling	Molva molva	Union waters of 4	4035	4035
Norway lobster	Nephrops	8c	3	3
Norway lobster	Nephrops	3a	13733	13733
Plaice	Pleuronectes platessa	6; Union and international waters of 5b; international waters of 12 and 14	638	638
Plaice	Pleuronectes platessa	7b and 7c	74	74
Saithe	Pollachius virens	7, 8, 9 and 10; Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1	3176	3176
Tusk	Brosme brosme	3a	31	31
Tusk	Brosme brosme	Union and international waters of 1, 2 and 14	21	21
Tusk	Brosme brosme	Union and international waters of 5, 6 and 7	4130	4130
Tusk	Brosme brosme	Union waters of 4	251	251

# EU Commission proposes quotas ahead of December Councils

## Proposed TACs for 2020 recommend cuts to 40 stocks



Colmcille fishing Scad on north-west coast of Donegal. Image: Paul Durrane

Ahead of this year's December Council's (16th-17th December), the Commission has adopted its proposal for fishing opportunities in 2020 for 72 stocks in the Atlantic and the North Sea. For 32 stocks the fishing quota is either increased or remains the same; for 40 stocks the quota is reduced.

Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries said the proposal "consolidates our efforts for sustainable fishing in Atlantic and North Sea waters."

"Over the past years," he said, "we have had a steady rise in the number of healthy stocks, and – as a consequence – also a steady rise in the profits of our fishing sector. This is the result of responsible management and continuous implementation efforts, primarily by our fishermen, who are the first ones to implement our conservation measures and also the ones to benefit most from increased yields. With such sustained commitment, 2020 will be another year of progress for Europe's fisheries."

In line with the objectives and legal framework of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), the Commission is proposing fishing

opportunities at "maximum sustainable yield" (MSY) for the stocks with a full scientific assessment, and at "precautionary levels" for other stocks. The proposal follows the advice of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES).

Currently, 59 stocks are being fished at MSY, up from 9 in 2009. This means, says the Commission, that the fishing pressure on the stocks is limited to a level that will allow a healthy future for the fish stocks' biomass while taking into account socio-economic factors. The Commission says it is working with Member States to support the fishermen in reaching the objective of fishing all stocks at sustainable levels by 2020, as set by the Common Fisheries Policy.

As the size of some key fish stocks has increased—for instance, Haddock in the Celtic Sea and Sole in the Bristol Channel—so has the profitability of the fishing sector, it states.

### DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL

For 2020, the multiannual plans for the North Sea and for the Western Waters provide the framework to adapt management measures to complex mixed fisheries as well as to avoid extreme variations of TACs. For instance: The Commission proposes to limit the decrease of the TACs for Northern and Southern Hake to -20%, using the upper part of the MSY range according to the Western Waters multiannual plan. The stocks have a healthy biomass, therefore a limited reduction of the fishing pressure would suffice to keep the stocks in good shape, according to scientists.

Table 3: Stocks with proposals for decreased Total Allowable Catch (TAC)

Common name	Scientific name	TAC Unit	Final TAC in 2019	TAC 2020 (Proposal)	TAC change 2019-2020 (Proposal)
Anglerfish	Lepidion	8c, 9 and 10; Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1	4166	4033	-3%
Blue ling	Molva dypterygia	Union and international waters of 3a	8	5	-38%
Blue ling	Molva dypterygia	International waters of 12	229	137	-40%
Blue ling	Molva dypterygia	Union and international waters of 2 and 4	53	32	-40%
Blue ling	Molva dypterygia	Union and international waters of 5b, 6 and 7	11778	11150	-5%
Boarfish	Caprosoma	Union and international waters of 6, 7 and 8	21830	19152	-13%
Cod	Gadus morhua	7a	807	257	-68%
Cod	Gadus morhua	7b, 7c, 7d, 8, 9 and 10; Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1	1610	189	-88%
Common sole	Solea	Union waters of 2a and 4	12555	12317	-2%
Common sole	Solea	8a and 8b	3872	3666	-5%
Common sole	Solea	7b, 7j and 7k	382	213	-44%
Greater silver smelt	Argentina silus	Union and international waters of 5, 6 and 7	4661	3729	-20%
Haddock	Melanogrammus aeglefinus	7a	3739	3156	-16%
Hake	Merluccius merluccius	8a, 8b, 8d and 8e	52118	42235	-19%
Hake	Merluccius merluccius	8c, 9 and 10; Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1	9258	7406	-20%
Hake	Merluccius merluccius	3a	4286	3403	-21%
Hake	Merluccius merluccius	6 and 7; Union and international waters of 5b; international waters of 12 and 14	79762	63325	-21%
Hake	Merluccius merluccius	Union waters of 2a and 4	4994	3940	-21%
Herring	Clupea harengus	Union and international waters of 5b, 6b and 6bN	4170	3480	-17%
Herring	Clupea harengus	6a, 6b, 7a, 7c	1650	1360	-17%
Horse Mackerel	Trachurus	Union waters of 4b, 4c and 7d	15179	13763	-9%
Horse Mackerel	Trachurus	Union waters of 2a, 4a, 6, 7a, 7b-k, 8a, 8b, 8d and 8e; Union and international waters of 5b; international waters of 12 and 14	119118	70617	-41%
Horse Mackerel	Trachurus	9	18858	11179	-41%
Horse Mackerel	Trachurus	8c	94017	46659	-50%
Lesser sole and witch	Microstomus kitt & Glyptocephalus cynoglossus	Union waters of 2a and 4	7874	5580	-29%
Norway lobster	Nephrops	Union waters of 2a and 4	22105	22077	-0.2%
Norway lobster	Nephrops	9 and 10; Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1	401	309	-23%
Plaice	Pleuronectes platessa	7a	3075	2790	-9%
Plaice	Pleuronectes platessa	7d and 7e	10354	9114	-12%
Plaice	Pleuronectes platessa	8, 9 and 10; Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1	395	316	-20%
Plaice	Pleuronectes platessa	Kattegat	1705	1141	-33%
Pollack	Pollachius pollachius	9 and 10; Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1	282	254	-10%
Pollack	Pollachius pollachius	8c	231	208	-10%
Pollack	Pollachius pollachius	8a, 8b, 8d and 8e	1482	1334	-10%
Pollack	Pollachius pollachius	7	12163	7298	-40%
Pollack	Pollachius pollachius	6; Union and international waters of 5b; international waters of 12 and 14	397	238	-40%
Sole	Solea	8c, 8d, 8e, 9 and 10; Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1	1072	643	-40%
Sprat	Sprattus sprattus	7d and 7e	2637	1506	-43%
Turbot and Brill	Psetta maxima & Scophthalmus rhombus	Union waters of 2a and 4	9122	5876	-28%
Whiting	Merlangius merlangus	8	2540	2203	-13%

The TAC for Haddock in the Celtic Sea could increase massively according to ICES advice (+100%), but the Commission proposes a 30% increase, using the lower part of the MSY range, in order to protect the vulnerable cod stock that is caught as a bycatch of haddock.

Where multiannual plans are not in place, the Commission has turned to the management strategies of the Advisory Councils, which have been assessed by ICES as sustainable. For example, for southern Horse Mackerel, the Commission has proposed to follow the management strategy of the Pelagic Advisory Council, which recommends a reduction of the quota by 50%.

The Commission has also proposed safeguard measures to ensure that the amount of Cod and Whiting in the Celtic Sea recovers to safe levels. These measures consist of increased selectivity, closures and appropriate control to prevent illegal discards.

The Commission proposes to continue the quota exchange system for by-catches. These are quotas set for stocks fished as by-catches in other healthy target fisheries. This system

ensures that Member States with no quota for one of these by-catch stocks can continue fishing for other target stocks. The exact amounts for the by-catch TACs and their accompanying measures will be issued at a later stage, after ICES provides its scientific advice. In the existing proposal, however, the Commission has already deducted from the advised catches the amounts corresponding to the agreed exemptions to the landing obligation.

The proposal covers stocks managed by the EU alone and stocks managed in cooperation with third countries, such as Norway, or through Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs). Agreement on a number of stocks subject international negotiations have just recently been finalised or are ongoing. Some further stocks are awaiting scientific advice, or have only recently had advice published. For these, the figures will be included at a later stage.

Note: The tables shown only list EU stocks, which are not shared with third countries. All TAC values are expressed in tonnes and rounded to the nearest full number.

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## Government Approves Agriculture, Forest and Seafood Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan

Minister for Agriculture, Michael Creed, TD, has welcomed government approval for the Agriculture, Forest and Seafood Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan. Adaptation is the process of preparing for the impacts of climate change.

The Minister stated "I am very pleased the Agriculture, Forest and Seafood Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan has been approved as part of the Whole-of-Government approach adopted under Climate Action Plan 2019. We have taken a consistent approach to adaptation planning across the Department and have prepared a single plan covering the agriculture, forest and seafood sector."

It is widely acknowledged that primary producers are very much to the forefront of dealing with the impacts of climate change. Like other sectors, the seafood sector will be impacted, and this is something the entire production chain needs to consider. The Minister said, "in addition to reducing our emissions, we must ensure that our food production system is resilient and ready to adapt to future climate risk."

The Plan just announced, builds on the 2017 adaptation planning document, Adaptation Planning – Developing Resilience to Climate Change in the Irish Agriculture and Forest Sector, with the main difference being the inclusion of the seafood sector—which was identified by Ireland's Statutory National Adaptation Framework (NAF) published in 2018 as one of twelve

key sectors required to prepare sectoral adaptation plans—as part of the Plan.

The Minister stated the Plan, which will be reviewed and updated every five years, is an important step in building "a strong and resilient sector that is well placed to take on the challenges and opportunities presented by our changing climate".

In September, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a 900 page report detailing the impact of climate change on the oceans, including the implications of climate change for fisheries.

According to the IPCC, there is already overwhelming evidence that climate change is resulting in profound consequences for ocean ecosystems and people. The ocean is warmer, more acidic and this is already disrupting species throughout the ocean food web, with impacts on marine ecosystems and people that depend on them.

With respect fisheries, specifically, since around 1950 many marine species across various groups have undergone shifts in geographical range and seasonal activities in response to ocean warming, sea ice change and biogeochemical changes, such as oxygen loss, to their habitats, resulting in shifts in species composition, abundance and biomass production of ecosystems, from the equator to the poles.

Melting glaciers and ice sheets are causing sea level rise, and coastal extreme events are becoming more severe. Sea level rise will increase



the frequency of extreme sea-level events. Over the course of this century, these trends are projected to continue. The ability to adapt will depend on the capacity of individuals and communities and the resources available to them.

In this regard, the Government's Adaptation Plan—which operates in tandem with the Government's mitigation plan, Climate Action Plan to tackle Climate breakdown—highlights fifteen case studies identifying real examples of how the sector has and will continue to be impacted by changing weather patterns and steps towards building resilience.

Among the fifteen are case studies relating to changing fish stock distributions, harmful algal blooms, ocean acidification, and seafood infrastructure. Most point to the need for further research, monitoring (including adequate financial support for these) and stakeholder engagement in terms of building adaptive capacity.

With respect changes in fish stock

distributions, the Plan acknowledges it "is reasonable to assume that these changes will challenge some assumptions underlying the current management areas for some Northeast Atlantic fisheries."

The Plan also states that "To address climate change vulnerability, management systems must create opportunities for fishers, fish farmers and fish workers to remain flexible and to be able to sustainably utilise diverse livelihood opportunities. Climate change adaptation strategies must include the participation of all stakeholders."

## EMFF Supports for Fishermen for Storm Damage

The Government's Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan highlights Ireland's European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) Programme 2014-20 provides for financial assistance towards fishermen experiencing significant economic losses arising from severe storms and other adverse climatic events.

The EMFF Regulation requires that this aid take the form of a contribution to payments to fishermen made by a 'Mutual Fund for Adverse Climatic Events and Environmental Incidents' established by fishermen and be funded through the subscriptions of affiliated fishermen.

Also highlighted in the Plan, however, is the fact that, to date, no fund has been proposed by fishermen or their representatives. The Department of Agriculture Food and Marine and BIM say they stand ready to provide advisory assistance to fishermen who wish to develop such a scheme.

## The fishing industry has survived precisely on its ability to adapt

A total of 49 submissions were received by the Department during the nine week public consultation on the draft Adaptation Plan (3 more were received after the August 16th closing date). In terms of climate change impacts, submissions cited variability and increased risk to productivity, investment, and employment as one of the main impacts on the sectors.

Feedback on the Draft Climate Change Adaptation Sectoral Plan for the Agriculture, Forest and Seafood sector from the Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation (KFO) cited the increasing frequency of storms and loss of seasonal stability as the factors currently having the most impact on the sector.

The main challenge for the seafood sector, said the KFO, will be the challenge of mitigating arising problems and finding innovative ways to deal with changing opportunities. Mitigation measures to reduce carbon emissions, they highlight, will also impact the sector.

Shifting patterns of species abundance will mean a loss of traditional species. Ocean acidification will mean damage to shellfish stocks and damage to calcareous reef habitats with subsequent loss of commercial stock habitats. Shifts in energy models (to wind and wave, for instance) will mean increased competition for space for fishermen and "will occupy considerable offshore sites which will be no-fishing zones."

On the plus side changes could see the development of an Irish fleet in more northern waters, the development of new fisheries as new species into our newly warmer waters, with consequent downstream opportunities, they said.

In terms of how the sector is currently adapting to climate change, the KFO highlight the fishing industry has survived precisely on its ability to adapt to changing circumstances.

Vessel design, more efficient engines, better planned fishing activities will all play a role and the industry is already looking at where changes can be made.

"There is a growing awareness in the fishing industry of the dangers posed by climate change and, as a sector so dependent on stable climate, fishing and the wider seafood sector will embrace innovation in this regard."

The KFO has said, however, the sector needs more information. Climate change monitoring needs to be improved, gaps in our knowledge relating to the most critical areas for the industry need to be improved.

For fisheries, the main gap identified by the Marine Institute relates to changes in fish distributions, migrations, abundance, communities, growth, and age structure. The lack of a long term current monitoring system in Irish waters is cited as a significant gap in the Northeast Atlantic.

According to the KFO, while the Plan is adequate in terms of a summary of potential impacts and consequences and the adaptation objectives laid out are appropriate for the duration of the Plan, stakeholders need to be aware this is a very brief synopsis.

In terms of helping the sector to better prepare to adapt to future climate change, the KFO said the Department could help with implementing a monitoring programme to establish baselines, support research and protect Ireland's current access to fishing grounds.

The KFO also highlighted, however, that with BREXIT, which could wipe-out a substantial portion of its fishing potential, and a Marine Spatial Plan, which could, likewise, severely curtail access to traditional fishing grounds, this is a particularly difficult time for the fishing industry to embrace the necessary mitigation measures required by the Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

## Spanish Skate Fishing Offences

Novo Alborada Image: Javier Alonso, MarineTraffic.com



The Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) welcomed the ruling by Judge Seán O'Donnabháin on 4th November 2019 who imposed a fine of €20,000 in addition to the forfeiture of €60,000 of catch and gear on the Spanish vessel, the Novo Alborada, following a guilty plea at Cork Circuit Court.

The Spanish registered fishing vessel was detained in Castletownbere on 9th July 2019 for skate fishing infringements, resulting from a joint operation with the UK Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and An Gardaí.

The master of the vessel, Manuel Juncal Juncal pleaded guilty to the charge of retention of a prohibited species of fish and a second charge of misreporting the vessel's fishing activity on its logbook. Fifty-two boxes of critically endangered blue skate were incorrectly recorded as long-nosed skate in the vessel's logbook.

Highlighting the success of this operation and praising the interagency cooperation involved, Susan Steele, Chair, SFPA said: "The blue skate is an endangered species that requires our protection and we have a zero tolerance approach to any vessels illegally fishing endangered species in our waters. We liaised with the UK MMO on this case and their close cooperation with Irish authorities led to the infringement being detected following inspection, which has now led to a successful prosecution. We will continue to work with authorities in the UK and across Europe to deter and detect any future illegal fishing violations."

Current EU regulations prohibit blue skate from being fished, retained on board, trans-shipped, or landed. This is the highest protection possible under the EU's Common Fisheries Policy.

In a separate incident, on November 12th a Spanish registered fishing vessel was detained for alleged skate fishing infringements following an inspection by Sea-Fisheries Protection Officers of the SFPA in Castletownbere. Similarly, the alleged infringements relate to the retention of Blue skate on board.

Three days later the LE William Butler Yeats detained a third Spanish registered vessel approximately 59 nautical miles North West of Valentia Island for an alleged breach of fishing regulations. The vessel was escorted by the LE William Butler Yeats to Galway, where it was handed over to An Garda Síochána.

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**KFO would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas & prosperous**

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## FIRST STECF REPORT ON SOCIAL DATA

An ageing Sector with few (visible) women and a shortage of crew



Happy Out catching some autumn sunshine late September, Cill Rónáin pier  
Image: Michael Muldoon

Earlier this autumn, the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) published its first report on social data in the EU fisheries sector.

According to the report, which provides information on the social and demographic characteristics of the fishing sector at EU and Member State level over the year 2017, there were around 150 thousand people employed in the EU fishing fleet that year. The majority of workers in the EU fleet were male at 96%, 4% were female.

In Ireland, in 2017 3 062 people were working in the industry. Of those, the report estimates, 98.1% were males. The remaining 57 (1.9%) were women who, according to the report, were mostly engaged in onshore roles such as accounting and administrative roles, though some women were working as skippers and deckhands.

With 58% of the people who fish in the EU fleet aged 40-46 years old, the report

shows also ageing of the fisheries workforce is a cause for concern. According to the report, 72 per cent of those fishing in the small scale fleet are over the age of 40. For the large scale fleet, that figure stands at 60%.

There is, however, a significant variation in age profiles across the Member States. For example, in Estonia 31% of fishers are over 65 while in many other Member States the same category only makes up a very low proportion of the fishing population (1% in Belgium and Germany and 2% in Finland).

Reflecting an ageing industry, 88% of those employed in the Irish fleet are between 25 and 64 years old. 53% are between 40-64 years of age, and 8% are over 64. This age profile pattern was similar in both the small scale and large scale fleet. Unsurprisingly, the report highlights access to labour and attracting new entrants is a major challenge repeatedly communicated by the Irish fishing industry.

## 2020 Prawn advice released by ICES

At the beginning of last month, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) published its advice on fishing opportunities for Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*) for next year. All ranges offered are considered precautionary and catches are based on the Western Waters multi-annual plan (WWMAP).

Based on advice from the scientific body, last year the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) set by the Council for Norway lobster was 19, 784 tonnes. This year, the cumulative advice that has been offered by ICES ranges from 12,785 tonnes (lower limit) to 16,815 tonnes (upper limit).

The advice for divisions 7.b–c and 7.j–k, Functional Unit 16 (west and southwest of Ireland, Porcupine Bank) is similar to last year. ICES has advised catches of between 2127 tonnes and 2637 tonnes for 2020 representing a decrease of between 0.3 and 19.6% on that advised last year.

In Division 7.a, Functional Unit 14 (Irish Sea, East) the scientific body has advised catches of between 644 tonnes and 779 tonnes, which, assuming recent discard rates, represents a decrease of between 30% and 14.6% on the advice offered last year, on account, say the scientists, of a lower stock estimate.

A cut has also been offered for Division 7.a, Functional Unit 15 (Irish Sea, West). On account of a lower stock estimate, for FU15 ICES has advised catches for next year

of between 7070 tonnes and 10 377 tonnes – representing a cut in the range of 6.6 % to 36%.

The advice for Division 7.b, Functional Unit 17 (west of Ireland, Aran grounds), is between 696 tonnes and 800 tonnes, a range of 20 % to 31% lower than that offered last year. The decrease advised, says ICES, is based on a lower stock abundance estimate in 2019, and a lower applied harvest rate.

A massively reduced 2020 TAC has been advised for divisions 7.g and 7.h, functional units 20 and 21 (Celtic Sea) of between 1131 tonnes and 1150 tonnes, or a range of a 78% to 79% cut. The reduction in total catch advice is the result of the large decrease in the observed stock abundance in 2019, says ICES.

Conversely, a large increase has been offered for 7.a, 7.g, and 7.j, Functional Unit 19 (Irish Sea, Celtic Sea, eastern part of southwest of Ireland), with between 749 tonnes and 839 tonnes advised, representing an increase, assuming recent discard rates, an increase in the range of 333% to 335%., as a result of an increase in observed stock abundance in 2019, as well as a higher harvest rate used in the advice.

An increase for divisions 7.g and 7.f, Functional Unit 22 (Celtic Sea, Bristol Channel) has also been advised with a range of 2247 tonnes and 2820 tonnes offered, representing an increase of between 7.8% and 35%.

## Macduff Busy as Ever

With the Endeavour V launched last month and two more builds near completion, Macduff Shipyards are busy as ever.

The hull of Knockhead LLP's Endeavour V was launched in Poland last month and was due to be towed to the yard in Macduff, where she will be completed, at the time The Skipper was going to print. Built at the Finomar yard in Poland, Endeavour V, which is a replacement for Endeavour IV which was also built by Macduff, has a registered length of 34m, a beam of 10.5m and a depth (to trawl deck) of 7.25m.

Once kitted out, the vessel will be fitted with a MAK 8M20C main engine, connected to a Mekanord 650HS 6.47:1 reduction gearbox, powering a 3300mm Heselth CPP. Two CAT C9.3 250ekW auxiliary engines will serve as auxiliary engines. MacGregor Rapp will supply Endeavour V with three trawl winches, three split sweep winches, three bagging winches, and an anchor/mooring winch. The vessel's deck crane is being supplied by Seaquest.

Little rest for Macduff this Christmas, the yard is also busy with a new 24.5m twin rig trawler for Crystal Sea Fishing Ltd, which will replace their existing vessel. The build is in an advanced stage of construction and is due to run sea trials early in the New Year. Work is also ongoing on a 14.95m Vivier crabber, Levanter GY 7, for Euroclydon Ltd, which is due soon due to complete sea trials. run sea trials the middle.



Levanter



Endeavour V

## Oldcourt Boats takes delivery of New Boatlift 90



Oldcourt Boats have just taken delivery of new BoatLift 90

Oldcourt Boats Ltd. in West Cork recently took delivery of a new Boatlift90 from Italy, reports Donal O' Donovan.

Since 1978, Oldcourt boats have been offering boat-building and storage services on the Ilen River between Skibbereen and Baltimore. Facilities include an 80-foot pontoon/marina, slipway, travel hoist, outdoor and indoor storage. Boats are built on-site by a highly skilled workforce and all types of maintenance are undertaken as well as restoration projects on classic boats. And now those facilities also include the largest boat lift in Ireland!

The boat lift arrived at the yard mid-November. Since then it has been assembled and the lads down in the yard at Oldcourt Boats have been testing it out. Busy with boat repairs, maintenance, and lifting out boats for the winter, now with a lift machine capable of lifting out 90 tonnes the load on the yard has definitely lightened...

Skibbereen and Baltimore, West Cork. Facilities include an 80 foot pontoon/marina, slipway, travel hoist, outdoor and indoor storage. Boats are built on-site by a highly skilled work force and all types of maintenance are undertaken as we as restoration projects on classic boats.

LOOK AFTER  
YOUR PFD

“Serving Fishermen on the South & West Coasts of Ireland”

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

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# Irish Skipper Expo SHOW NEWS

UL ARENA, LIMERICK - MAR 13-14, 2020



## A fantastic showcase for the fishing industry

With 125 companies booked so far – including 30 first-time exhibitors – Irish Skipper Expo 2020, which is being held at an exciting new venue in Limerick, is shaping-up to be a fantastic event with plenty to interest visitors.

There is a very strong overseas representation this year, with exhibitors from 15 countries attending, including China, Denmark, Faroes, France, Holland, Iceland, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Canada, Norway,

Poland, Scotland, Spain, UK, and the USA.

Sponsored by Irish seafood development agency, BIM, and leading marine insurer Cavanagh Hooper Dolan Insurances, the expo will be held at UL Sport Arena in Limerick on 13 and 14 March, providing one spacious exhibiting hall and offering a much better overall visitor experience.

A large outside display area located adjacent to the visitor entrance will offer an opportunity

to showcase much larger products and boats. The venue offers many other benefits, including onsite catering and bar facilities, its ease of accessibility and excellent car parking. There is a good and varied range of hotels and other accommodation available in Limerick.

Sharon Boyle of show organiser Mara Media said: “There are still a few stands remaining – both in the exhibiting hall and the outdoor display area, and I would urge any company thinking about exhibiting

to get in touch with us as soon as possible to discuss availability and to avoid disappointment.

“We are thrilled at the amount of interest that has been shown in the expo so far – and with a new venue and a new name, Irish Skipper Expo 2020 promises to be a fantastic showcase for the fishing industry.”

Irish Skipper Expo 2020 will be held at UL Sport Arena in Limerick on 13th and 14th March, opening times 10am – 6pm on Friday 13th and 10am – 4pm on Saturday 14th March. **Entry is free.**

## Cavanagh Hooper Dolan Insurances Ltd

Irish Skipper Expo sponsor Cavanagh Hooper Dolan Insurances Ltd provide a comprehensive and competitive range of professional products and services to both individuals and companies. Services include a wide range of marine and general insurance products for all classes of vessels and onshore business in all sectors of the industry. Cavanagh Hooper Dolan also provide a broad range of home, motor and health insurance products and have clients based in both ROI and UK.

Recent changes in vessel owners' responsibilities for their crews are notified in Marine Notice No. 42 of

2019, which came into force on 15th November 2019. As per the new regulations, the following is stated:

“The fishing vessel owner shall meet any medical care expenses reasonably incurred in connection with the fisher's sickness or injury, while the fisher is aboard the fishing vessel or landed in a port outside the country responsible for the fisher's social security protection. This applies, if a fisher experiences sickness or injury during the lifetime of the Fisher's Work Agreement (or if the sickness or injury resulted from circumstances or events which occurred during the lifetime of the Fisher's Work

Agreement).” Cavanagh Hooper Dolan can provide quotations for your health insurance needs for the vessel owners and their crews or to individual crew members. Cavanagh Hooper Dolan Insurances' fully qualified staff would be delighted to discuss your requirements and design a plan bespoke to your needs.

Staff at Cavanagh Hooper Dolan

Insurances take pride in our work; they always strive to go the extra mile for their clients. Cavanagh Hooper Dolan Insurances is a unique company with specialist marine knowledge and history.

For product information and free quotations, visit Cavanagh Hooper Dolan's website at [www.chd.ie](http://www.chd.ie), email the team on [info@chd.ie](mailto:info@chd.ie) or call today on 074 91 77500.

Cavanagh Hooper Dolan Insurances Limited is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.

Both Cavanagh Hooper Dolan Insurances' new and existing clients can expect to receive invaluable insurance advice and the highest standard of service.

Cavanagh Hooper Dolan is a 'one stop shop' for all your insurance needs - afloat or ashore.

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Cavanagh Hooper Dolan Insurances Limited is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.

## Errigal Bay interested in meeting new fishermen suppliers

Irish Skipper Expo exhibitor Errigal Bay has been processing premium quality shellfish since 1962. With facilities in the Northwest and South East of Ireland, Errigal Bay exports premium quality seafood products including brown crab, velvet crab, whelk, king and queen scallop and langoustine to markets in the USA, Asia and across Europe.

They have long established relationships with fishermen – some now in their third generation. Errigal Bay pride themselves on the pier collection services

they provide and fast payment, collecting in many ports in Ireland and the UK. As a result of market demand, they are always interested in meeting new fishermen who would like to become part of their team and they encourage you to contact them.

Contact Address: Errigal Bay, Meenaneary, Carrick, Co. Donegal, Ireland,

Tel: +353 (0)1 9088100, Email: [info@errigalbay.com](mailto:info@errigalbay.com), Web: [www.errigalbay.com](http://www.errigalbay.com)

## Quality and reliability from Reintjes

Reintjes understand the demands of the fishing industry. Their marine gearboxes are strong and durable with long periods between major overhaul, combining quality and reliability for operational performance with low through life costs.

Visit Reintjes during the Irish Skipper Expo 2020, where they will be delighted to discuss your next project with you. Whether it is a new build

or a re-power of an existing vessel, they are confident that they will find a solution.

Reintjes offer standard ratios from 1.2:1 to 7.476:1 single stage reduction for both FPP and CPP solutions. They also offer two stage reductions up to 15:1 for large diameter, slow speed efficient propellers.

Reintjes are also able to offer a range of PTO/PTI options to allow the introduction of Hybrid drive into your vessel, giving you

further ideas and innovation to reduce overall fuel burn. Operating with Reintjes Benelux, they also carry a number of stock gearboxes for fast delivery for new, repower or breakdown situations. This is also supported through their nationwide aftermarket dealer network, throughout the UK and Ireland.

Reintjes look forward to welcoming you at Irish Skipper Expo 2020 to discuss your future projects.



## Teignbridge's world leading propellers and stern gear

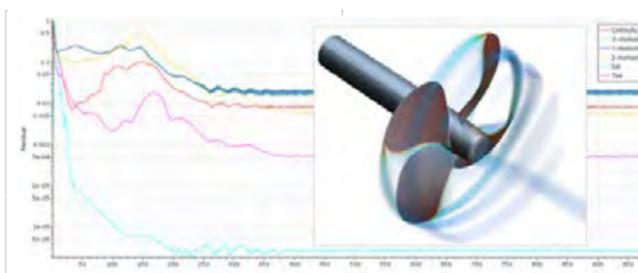
Founded in 1974, Teignbridge is recognised as a leading worldwide designer and manufacturer of award-winning propellers and sterngear.

Teignbridge says: “Globally, only a handful of companies truly possess the design and manufacturing capabilities to produce high-quality custom propellers. Teignbridge is proudly one of those companies.”

Teignbridge design and manufacture propellers, shafts, couplings, sterntubes, shaft

seals, rudders, rudder tubes, tie-bars, glass-in P'Brackets, platform P'brackets, 'A'brackets.

Teignbridge is in receipt of a UK Government £3m investment to optimise propeller designs. This investment has been the catalyst to build their state of the art unique research vessel: HRV1. The data from physical testing on-board HRV1 is coupled with CFD & numerical simulation tools in an integrated design workflow to deliver high-performance



propellers.

All of Teignbridge customers benefit from the optimised designs that are principally focused on full displacement

vessels such as fishing boats. Come and talk to their team at Irish Skipper Expo 2020 about a bespoke design service supported by UK manufacture.

## Proven technology from DESMI



Irish Skipper Expo exhibitor DESMI is a global company specialised in the development and manufacture of pump solutions for marine, industry, oil spill, seaweed & marine debris clean-up, defence & utility both locally and globally.

The company manufacture centrifugal pumps with capacities ranging up to 5400 m<sup>3</sup>/h and 220 mWC. Vertical and Horizontal pumps, self-priming and non-self priming. Typical applications: FW and SW Service, Cooling Water, Ballast, Fire-Fighting, Bilge, General Service, Deck Wash, etc.

Marine Expertise:

- High-efficiency and reliable pumps and pumping solutions incl. DESMI 48 – Fast track delivery of pumps within 48 hours
- Compact Clean Ballast water management system - One of the most compact ballast water management systems on the market!
- OptiSave™ – Optimizing pump speed to current conditions saving fuel by intelligent control of your cooling water pumps
- DESMI ROTAN® internal gear pumps for pumping high-viscous liquids

## New plastic fish box range

DRAWM will be exhibiting its new 40 kilo and 50 kilo fish boxes at the Irish Skipper Expo in Limerick. The company, which has been supplying insulated fish tubs and containers to the UK and Irish fishing markets for the last 13 years, says the new plastic fish box range are ideal for fish markets, fishing boats and processing plants.

Kieran Ward, General Manager of DRAWM said: “I am delighted to add the popular 40 and 50 Kilo fish boxes to our product range. They are produced from brand new moulds ensuring precise stacking and nesting.”

He added: “They are top quality and we will

be offering them at an affordable price. I am confident the market will love them.”

- Features include:
- Easy stacking and nesting
  - Drainage channel system
  - Injection moulded at ISO 9000 manufacturing facility from new moulds
  - Made from food grade HDPE to ensure durability and robustness.
  - Choice of colours
  - Customised printing available

As UK and Ireland agent for Nilkamal, DRAWM now offer a full range of Insulated Containers to many industries including the fishing, meat and food processing industries.

**13-14 MARCH 2020**  
OPENING TIMES | Fri 10-6 Sat 10-4

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maramedia Skipper

## The ongoing revolution in trawl door design

Irish Skipper Expo exhibitor Thyborøn Trawldoor's Type 23 Bluestream doors provide increased spread with reduced fuel consumption

Based in Denmark, the world's most popular trawl door designers and manufacturers, Thyborøn Trawldoors, are enjoying continued success with their innovative Type 23 Bluestream doors.

Launched on the market earlier this year, these doors have been developed using the company's experience with the dimensions of its Type 14 doors and the effectiveness of the Type 22 doors with the implemented Bluestream special technology, in which waterflow is forced to its maximum through the foils of the door, thereby creating a more powerful spread force and less drag resistance on the doors.

Based on feedback from their customers, the Thyborøn Trawldoor company says that for vessels that have already switched from Thyborøn's own well-known Type 14s 10m2 to the Type 23 Bluestream9m2 there is up to 50% less resistance on the doors when towed through the water, without any bottom friction or contact — meanwhile they produce same powerful spread on the nets — a major benefit in this age of rising fuel costs.

Throughout 2019 the feedback of the Type 23 Bluestream doors from several vessel owners has yielded extremely positive results, the company said — a statement backed by many fishermen who are currently using this design.

"We certainly have no concerns with these Type 23 Bluestream doors, as they have increased the spread of our gear by an amazing 50m and without losing any catching capacity in the process," said Tonni Karlsen, skipper of the 54.6m Ole-ArvidNergard.



## Introducing the ShipSonic HDS antifouling system



Marine Growth Prevention Specialists Ltd will be introducing the ShipSonic HDS antifouling system to the Irish fishing industry at Irish Skipper Expo 2020 in Limerick.

ShipSonic HDS moves ultrasonic antifouling into the next generation. ShipSonic have invested heavily in years of research and development in conjunction with renowned academic institutions, box cooler manufacturers and the Dutch Government.

Backed by this research and development, ShipSonic's HDS antifouling series is now the World's premier environmentally friendly antifouling system for the commercial marine market.

With spiralling fuel costs and environmental pressures being paramount to all marine stakeholders but especially to the small and medium sized businesses that make up the fishing industry. A solution that saves fuel, reduces emissions, reduces maintenance costs and is itself non-polluting and environmentally friendly would be invaluable.

Marine Growth Prevention Specialists Ltd says the ShipSonic HDS Antifouling System is that Holy Grail of solutions!

With its robust, commercial grade build quality, modular design and three year warranty, the ShipSonic HDS range offers skippers and vessel owners a fit and forget, cost effective and ecologically sound answer to all their marine growth questions.

## Berthon Power displaying versatile Cox Powertrain diesel outboard engine

Berthon Power will be exhibiting the highly-anticipated Cox Powertrain diesel outboard engine, the CXO300, at the Irish Skipper Expo on 13-14 March.

Visitors to the event can discuss the advantages of the ground-breaking engine that is set to shake up the marine industry.

Based on a 4-stroke V8 architecture, the CXO300 is the world's first 300hp diesel outboard engine ever to have come to the marine market.

The CXO300 has been designed and developed in-house from the ground up for professional maritime use.

The CXO300 will deliver a package

volume around half that of a diesel inboard with comparable fuel efficiency. Crucially for commercial operators, it offers at least a 25% better range compared to a petrol outboard and is designed to last up to three times longer. Reduced maintenance and haul out costs minimise disruption to operations for engine service and repairs are also advantages.

It has a 100% higher peak torque at the crankshaft than the leading petrol 300hp outboards and is 60% higher compared to a leading 350hp. This enables crafts to move more weight more efficiently, reach peak torque and top power more quickly.



## NORTHERN IRELAND NEWS *By Dick James*

### THE LOSS OF THE DILLON OWEN

On the early morning of the 23rd of October the Cork owned pelagic fishing vessel Dillon Owen was heading for Ardglass to discharge a catch of herring when it missed the harbour entrance hitting a rock on the north side of the channel. After backing off the vessel lost power and drifted onto Phennick point.

A radio call for help was made at 05.15 am. The lifeboats at Portaferry and Newcastle were launched at 05.30 — the Portaferry

boat arriving on the scene at 06.00, the Newcastle boat at 06.25. The local coastguard team and the Irish coastguard helicopter Rescue 116 carried pumps to the scene but the weather worsened and attempts to tow Dillon Owen off the rocks by the lifeboats and the Ardglass trawler Mourne Shore were abandoned. The helicopter was then tasked with lifting the six crew off the vessel which was effected successfully.

The vessel lay on the rocks for

a week but on the night of the 29/30th October, in another fresh blow, the Dillon Owen washed off the rocks into the edge of the fairway. A Dutch lifting barge and tug were tasked to lift the Dillon Owen and remove her from the area but at the time of writing, this has yet to be done.

Local fishermen have been requesting over the years that the Ardtole perch and beacon at the northern entrance of the harbour be provided with a light to make

the entrance to the harbour safer but several attempts to do this have been foiled by the weather in the beacons exposed position. The perch is marked with a virtual beacon and leading lights from the inner lighthouse but over the years there have been several grounding incidents in the area but none as bad as the case of the Dillon Owen.

Fortunately, all of the crew were reported safe and well after the rescue.

### YET MORE BREXIT

The UK fisheries departments issued further notice and instructions on the fisheries regime post-Brexit, with licencing and documentation featuring strongly as far as access and landings were concerned. Control and enforcement actions were also covered, with robust intelligence-led action being based on a promised increase in presence and deterrent activity, with a plea for information from the industry. The leaflet dated for 31 October was rescinded a week later by email to UK fishery licence holders.

### THE FISHERY

It gets no better! From a blue October to a harsh November. The Nephrops fishery in the north Irish Sea has gone into hibernation, hopefully that rather than extinction, but there is virtually zero fishing in the area at all. On times a solitary Portavogie boat works the Manx shore but more out of habit than expectation. The Clyde too is poor at a time of year when that area is seen as the saviour for a reasonable Christmas pay day. The smalls ground is also barren and the only note of cheer is for those who braved the long, and often rough, trip across the top of Scotland and make their way to North Shields where a Nephrops fishery on the Fame Deeps has attracted a sizeable fleet of North Irish boats to fish alongside the local fleet and visiting Scotsmen. Landings are such that local factories cannot take the visitors catches so the Langoustines are lorried back to the home market which would otherwise be hungry too. The Maracestina fishes away on the Porcupine Bank well away from the problems elsewhere.

Even the whitefish boats found the going sticky with one aborting a North Sea semi-pelagic trip to



Stephanie M loaded with mackerel coming into Lerwick. Image: Charlie Umphray

join the Nephrops fleet at North Shields. Otherwise, Haddock off Co. Louth and a mixed fishery in the North Channel summed up the action for less than a handful of boats.

The Scallop season in the north Irish Sea opened on the 11th of November with a tight quota on the Manx grounds of 15 bags per day but when the boats got to it they found this difficult enough to catch. Some of the smaller boats worked the Co. Down coast others the north channel on both sides. At least it was better than the Nephrops but not by much and if there are any signs of recovery in that fishery then there would be a significant switch back.

The Pelagic fishery brought little cheer for the local boats as the lack of quota reduced this year's fishery to little better than 3 weeks. The local factories felt the pinch too as other participants in the fishery tended to land

elsewhere apart from a few Irish boats from the southwest. Mackerel too was swiftly caught with the fish seemingly plentiful but the quota restrictive.

On the inshore grounds the brown crab fishery never really got going this year and tailed off early but some boats kept at it mixing their landing with lobster and velvet crab.

Roll on 2020!

### NEW SAFETY INITIATIVE

The Marine and Coastguard Agency (MCA) have introduced a new safety initiative through a series of meetings at six locations in Northern Ireland targeting primarily small boats. In 2017, a Code of Practice came into force (MSN1871) which is to be extended with new requirements involving:

- Construction, weathertight and watertight integrity,
- Stability

- Machinery
- Electrical installation
- Crew protection
- Man overboard recovery

Public Consultation is the purpose of the meetings but it is not clear to what extent proposals have already been formulated and what impact the consultations will have on the final outcome.

At the same time, the impacts of the new regulations under ILO188 were outlined with written risk assessments becoming obligatory and responsibility for crew health safety and training and welfare taking on new importance. A safety folder is on offer to assist in compliance with ILO188 as well as crew certification, service and maintenance and access to M notices.

A review is also ongoing into training and certification regulations at UK level.



## UK NEWS

### Catch Recording for under-10s begins: Some questions and answers

After a soft launch period over the past number of months, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) has begun the phased implementation of catch recording for under-10s in England and Wales.

In Wales, the decision has been taken to delay the change to licence condition until February 2020, on account of Brexit challenges. Fishermen will still be invited to register from December, however.

Michael Coyle, MMO said that after months of testing and continuous feedback from volunteers who have been using the service day to day, the MMO thought is best to share some of the questions that have come up in sessions with industry and some tips on using the service they have found useful.

One of the main questions that has arisen in relation to the rollout is “Are we expected to do this while at sea?” The answer to this is no, unless you are crossing the line between ICES areas 4c/7d or 7d/7e – then you must submit a catch record for both ICES areas each time you leave/enter the area.

According to the MMO, questions have also arisen regarding digital accessibility and how this affects the catch recording service. If you don't have access to the internet or a smartphone you can phone in your catch to the contact centre before landing. However, to do this you have to register with the contact centre as assisted digital.

Another way to record your catch is by telephoning someone with access to the account to enter the catch online before you land. You could also retain the catch on-board (although you can land the non-quota, non-catch limit species), record the catch on a computer, then return to the vessel to land.

However, according to the MMO if not the industry themselves, having a smartphone to enter your catch is by far the easiest of all the options. If you have limited reading/writing ability and difficulty using technology there is an assisted digital service that allows fishermen to ring the contact centre from a basic mobile phone (or landline for those that catch non-quota species).

The ‘record your catch’ mobile application works whether you have signal or not – you will be able to record your catch when there is no signal and this will automatically be sent when a phone signal is detected.

You will not need to continue recording your shellfish catch using the MSAR1 form once you have started recording your catch using the electronic system, the new service will replace the MSAR1. You must complete and submit your current return up to the date of your first submission on the catch recording service.

Similarly, if you complete a paper logbook, for example when leasing quota, once you start recording your catch using the service you will no longer have to do so. Under 10s in a Producer Organisation that currently complete logbooks will continue to do so.

Further information and a number of tips on using the service can be found on the MMO's website.

### £15.4 million funding boost for English fishing industry

Environment Secretary Theresa Villiers, delivered a boost for the English fishing industry ahead of Brexit by opening applications for £15.4 million from two UK fishing funds.

The £14.7 million share of a £37.2 million UK-wide fund announced last December, will encourage the take up of innovation and technology, supporting jobs in coastal communities. In addition, £700,000 from a £2 million UK-wide fund announced in the 2018 Budget is ring-fenced for fishing safety improvements onboard English vessels and around ports and harbours.

English fishermen and those working in the seafood sector will be able to apply for a share of the new Maritime Fisheries Fund (MFF), which is designed to ensure the fishing and seafood industry continues to thrive once the UK leaves the EU.

The three-year fund builds on the government's commitment to secure a fairer share of fishing opportunities for UK fishermen as it takes back control of fishing waters and establishes the UK as an independent coastal state.

Environment Secretary Theresa Villiers, said:

“We are taking back control of our waters and establishing the UK as an independent coastal state, with a fairer share of fishing opportunities for the whole of the UK fleet.

“We are committed to a thriving fishing and seafood industry, and this funding will support innovation, jobs, safety at sea and help establish new markets and opportunities as we leave the EU.”

Barrie Deas, Chief Executive, National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations said:

“I would encourage all fishermen to look closely at this new fund to see if it can help their businesses adjust to the new circumstances we will be operating under as the UK emerges as an

independent coastal state.”

The fund in England is open to applications that:

- support innovation – in technologies to enhance economic growth, increase energy efficiency, reduce environmental impact and improve fishing safety
- improve port infrastructure – so more fish can be landed in UK ports, and help the sector take advantage of new export opportunities after Brexit
- boost coastal communities – by providing benefits to areas that depend on a vibrant and profitable industry
- help the sector adjust – to new arrangements on access and fishing opportunities by improving capacity and capability to exploit new export opportunities and markets, and improve safety on fishing vessels or onshore – funding safety measures that prevent accidents such as new handrails and ladders

This fund is in addition to the existing European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) funding. The government has already guaranteed all EMFF projects approved before 31 December 2020 will be fully funded, bringing the total support package available to the UK fisheries sector from 2016 to 2022 to £320 million.

The government has also already committed to put in place new, domestic, long-term arrangements to support the UK's fishing industry from 2021, through the creation of four new schemes comparable with the EMFF to deliver funding for each nation. The Devolved Administrations will each lead on their own schemes.

This new fund is open for applications in England from today until March 2022. Submissions are to be made through the Marine Management Organisation (MMO).

### Over half of UK consumers want to eat more seafood

Seafood has published the results of its latest research looking at UK consumers' attitudes and behaviours regarding seafood. It commissioned the ‘State of the Nation’ research as part of its work to drive further seafood consumption in the UK.

The findings of the research revealed that only one third followed the NHS public health recommendation to eat two portions of fish a week. However, over half (55%) of consumers would like to eat more seafood.

The research also uncovered some

key consumer attitudes and preferences around seafood, with findings showing that 70% of the fish buying public think that sustainability is important and that telling consumers about the specific health benefits of fish would encourage over 70% of them to eat more.

Speaking of the results of the study, Greg Smith, Head of Marketing at Seafish, said that the work “provides valuable insights” and “can be used by industry to inform ongoing initiatives, which help positively impact consumption across the supply chain.”

### Sustainable & Cornish – New Cornwall-wide Seafood celebration launches

Seafood Cornwall, first formed in 2004, has been brought back to life to promote and celebrate the incredible contribution of fish, fishing, seafood and coastal communities to Cornish life.

“Cornish life has always been shaped and defined by the sea. From fishermen to surfers and fish buyers to diners at fish restaurants we're all lucky to live in the most beautiful part of the UK, with the very best marine environment on our doorstep and with it, some of the most incredible seafood in the world” notes Paul Trebilcock, Chief Executive of Cornwall's Fish Producer's Organisation (CFPO), who is leading a team spearheading the initiative.

Seafood Cornwall is designed to celebrate the peninsula's ‘incredible seafood’ as well as the hard work, dedication, creativity and community spirit of everyone in Cornwall connected to the fishing industry – which, suggests Trebilcock, is just about everyone:

“The fishing industry has been at the very heart of Cornish life for as long as anyone can remember. I live and breathe it not just for my job but as a proud Cornishman with family roots going back generations in fishing. Locals and residents in

across all of Cornwall – and the tourists who flock here – want to see and experience the diverse local fishing fleet, incredible top quality seafood, beautiful working harbours and coves, amazing fish and chips, and all see a vibrant fishing industry central to what makes Cornwall unique for those who live here and the hundreds of thousands that visit every year”.

The initiative, which reinvigorates a programme of work first set up in 2004, launched November 12th and has an ambitious range of projects ahead – some of which are already underway. Katrina Ryan of Mindfully Wired Communications explains why Seafood Cornwall is much more than a marketing initiative:

“Cornish fish and seafood already has an outstanding reputation. What we want to do with Seafood Cornwall is connect as many people as possible to the story behind that seafood supper – the fishermen who caught it, the range of boats working off the Cornish coast, the processors and restaurants who depend on sustainable seafood for their businesses, and the families who have salt water in their veins!”.

Ryan adds that Seafood Cornwall is also keen to build up people's

confidence with seafood, and with trying new things: “We've got stacks of brilliant recipes coming up – no reading required: we're filming them live and will be posting them online to build a community of new seafood fanatics!”.

Uniquely, the visuals, storytelling, recipe-gathering and striking web presence of the initiative is being backed up by on-the-ground engagement to foster even stronger communities around local catch in Cornwall. This was vital to the CFPO's goals in leading the project: “We want Seafood Cornwall to be an extension of our work - building a strong, sustainable future for Cornwall's diverse fishing industry,” comments Paul Trebilcock.

This work will be visible around the coast from Spring 2020, and community engagement lead Chris Ranford is excited to showcase some creative ideas for connecting locals and tourists to the seafood trade:

“Through delivering a series of Spring and Summer events Seafood Cornwall will be creating a space that will invite people to engage directly with fishermen, to share their catch stories, knowledge and culture. Developing this initiative aims to build consumer awareness on the variety of species caught and landed

in our waters throughout the year and to be more daring and try something they may have not even known about before”.

Seafood Cornwall is looking to the future of the industry in new ways, too – a much-vaunted Youth Board launched earlier in 2019 and will be steering the initiative's engagement with young people. It is the first of its kind for the fishing industry in the UK, and the full Seafood Cornwall team are required to hold all youth-communications and engagement ideas accountable to the Board before implementation.

“I am part of the Youth Board because I think it's important to make youngsters aware of the opportunities within the industry,” says Youth Board member Aidan McClary, aged 19. “I think having a new generation will allow the industry to flourish again.”

Different elements of the project will launch and evolve across 2020, all looking to the horizon and working towards a strong, sustainable future for Cornish fishing.

For more information check out the Seafood Cornwall website: [www.seafoodcornwall.org.uk/](http://www.seafoodcornwall.org.uk/)



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# SCOTLAND NEWS

## £1.1m funding to improve safety of industry

Additional funding of more than £1 million has been announced to support the Scottish fishing industry and help make it safer.

The money will aim to reduce the number of accidents and lives lost at sea through a range of actions, including improved health and safety training and paying for more personal locator beacons.

It will also help to fund 'smart trawl', a technology that reduces discards by allowing for more selective trawling, and will contribute towards gathering data that will inform future fishing negotiations. The funding will be allocated to:

- fisheries safety and diversification £615,000
- smart trawl £200,000
- gathering data on stocks to inform future negotiations £310,000

Speaking to the Scottish Fishermen's Federation in Edinburgh, Fisheries Secretary Fergus Ewing said:

"Scotland produces the best seafood found anywhere in the world, and many coastal communities depend on our fishing industry. But there have been too many accidents over the years, and too many lives lost at sea.

"I'm determined to do something about that. That is why I am particularly pleased to be able to announce further funding to improve safety, which will support costs in areas including training and personal locator beacons. This will be delivered through the Scottish Fishing Safety Group we established in May.

"The package will support further work to improve selectivity when catching certain species. It will also improve data on some important stocks – which is vital with the continued uncertainty around Brexit."

## Scotland needs seat at top table for key fisheries negotiations

### BREXIT DELAY GIVES PAUSE FOR REASSESSMENT, SAYS SNP MEP

SNP MEP Christian Allard has called for the Scottish government to take the lead UK role in this year's December EU Fisheries Council, where quotas will be negotiated for 2020.

The meeting will take place just days after the general election during a period when talks for the formation of a new UK government may well be unresolved. The SNP MEP has highlighted that there is, therefore, a risk that the UK will be without a functioning government during the vital fisheries talks.

Mr Allard has said that by allowing the Scottish fisheries secretary to lead the negotiations on behalf of the UK, full preparations can be made away from the post-election turmoil in London.

EU rules fully permit ministers from devolved governments to lead in Council meetings – with the Flemish fisheries minister routinely negotiating on behalf of Belgium as of right.

Mr Allard stated:

"The threat of Brexit is causing huge uncertainty across the entire Scottish

economy and nowhere is this truer than in the fishing industry. Huge promises were made to the sector by the Leave campaign – but equally huge questions remain unanswered.

"One thing that is certain is that the UK will have to take part in this December's Fisheries Council and that these talks are crucial. The scientific advice on certain key stocks is concerning and it is imperative that the UK is represented by a fully focused negotiating team.

"These talks will take place immediately after the general election and it is far from certain who the relevant UK minister will be. We may have an outgoing Tory minister for whom achieving a bad deal and then blaming the EU would be the political priority.

"Alternatively we may have someone new coming into the post with little experience of EU negotiations.

"Whatever the outcome of the election, we already have a Scottish government in office and Scotland makes up by far the largest part of the UK fishing industry. Fergus Ewing has the experience and the political motivation to defend Scotland's interests – and the UK should allow him to lead the delegation to these vital talks."



SNP MEP Christian Allard

Last October, the SNP MEP warned that Johnson's Brexit deal could decimate the Scottish sector and would leave Scottish fishermen at a competitive disadvantage compared to fishermen in Northern Ireland, with knock-on consequences along the length of the value chain.

He said: "Boris Johnson's Brexit deal is bad for the whole of the Scottish economy and nowhere will this be more apparent than in the fishing industry. Fish exporters are already facing charges of £160 per consignment to pay for health certificates and now they face tariffs on top of that.

"The UK government has carved out an exemption whereby Northern Irish fishing boats can export their landings to the EU free of duty. This will allow the industry across the water to operate on an all-Ireland basis and puts the Scottish sector at a huge economic disadvantage.

"I wish the fishing industry across Ireland nothing but well. The SNP however has long argued that if free access to the single market can be arranged for Northern Ireland then it can be arranged for Scotland too.

"The delay in Brexit gives us an opportunity to pause and reassess things. The EU is our largest export market by a long way and the fishing industry needs to retain tariff-free access.

"The Leave campaign promised huge things for the sector – but these promises were based on lies. It's time to think of the long-term future of Scotland's coastal communities – and to stop this disastrous Brexit."

## SFF seeks support for December 2020 CFP exit

### Delay to implementation period would harm fish catching sector

With the latest Brexit date now pushed into the New Year and a General Election on December 12th, the Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF) is urging politicians to support its goal of exiting the Common Fisheries Policy within one year of the General Election.

SFF chief executive Elspeth Macdonald said it was now clear to representatives of all political parties that the fleet would prosper when control over who gets to catch what, where and when in UK waters is restored to the country's governments.

Currently, the implementation period is due to end in December 2020, and given the established timetable of annual international fisheries negotiations, according to the SFF leader, it is imperative that the UK should be functioning as a fully independent coastal state by then.



SFF chief executive Elspeth Macdonald in Fraserburgh

Ms Macdonald said: "We recognise that there will be challenges in the year ahead if we are to meet this timetable for a managed transition for the sector.

"However, the industry stands ready to address and overcome obstacles to us in leaving what is widely seen as an excessively bureaucratic and at times punitive and contradictory framework in the shape of the CFP.

"We hope politicians of all parties will recognise the benefits to our coastal communities and the wider economy of a larger, more prosperous and sustainable industry, where the potential to double the amount of raw material caught by the Scottish fleet could result in an uplift of £500 million in value and up to 5,000 new jobs, according to a Scottish Government report.

"This can only be achieved when control is restored to the UK as a sovereign Coastal State."

In late October, the SFF Chief warned that any extension of the implementation period would be highly damaging for the

Scottish fishing fleet.

In her first speech to the annual SFF dinner in Edinburgh that month Ms Macdonald said that leaving the CFP "represents a huge opportunity for the industry."

"We believe there is real scope for this to be one of the fastest growing sectors of our economy in future," she said.

"Obviously it is for politicians to determine how and when the UK leaves the EU and when the industry is unshackled from the CFP, and we will continue to work closely with governments both in Westminster and Edinburgh to secure the best outcomes for our industry, recognising that we need viable supply chains across the whole sector, both inshore and offshore, to reap the greatest economic benefits for Scotland that this opportunity presents.

"While the EU has agreed an extension to January 31st for the UK to make up its mind about what sort of exit it wants, we are absolutely clear that any extension of an implementation period beyond the end of 2020 would be fundamentally damaging to the opportunities that lie ahead for us."

She noted that during the current round of international negotiations, positive agreements had been reached in relation to the three key pelagic stocks, mackerel, herring and blue whiting.

"It is no secret, however, that the scientific advice for North Sea cod is much more challenging for next year, and there is a great deal of work going on within industry and government to find a way forward, seeking to strike a balance between measures to help the stock, and that allow the fleet to remain at sea."

In her speech, Ms Macdonald also highlighted the wide range of work carried out by the SFF on safety, on stock assessment (through the on-board observer scheme) and on marine planning and licensing.

She also spoke of her pride in being the first woman CEO of the SFF.

"There are a great many talented and successful women working across the industry, and I'm delighted that some of them are here with us tonight, and I hope that we can encourage more women and girls into this great industry, where there are opportunities for so many different sorts of careers."

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## SHETLAND NEWS *By Peter Johnson, Chris Cope and Hans J Marter / Shetland News*

### Island Fish opens shop and celebrates a year of business

Lerwick based Island Fish Shetland Ltd has now opened a shop stocking a range of groceries as well as the fish counter which sells as much locally sourced fish as possible and has also introduced a fish counter loyalty scheme.

The business started processing fish just over a year ago at the Marina Business Park in Lerwick. It is run by John Martin Tulloch with assistance from his sons Willum and Maikum and is currently looking for a part-time filleter and a shop assistant.

Island Fish is located in the site once occupied by the old McNab's fish factory and shop and has the same layout with retail and processing occupying separate parts of the same building.

"We are stocking common and not so common types of fish and shellfish and just trying to make things a bit more affordable for the retail and

wholesale as well, and really try to promote local seafood," Tulloch said.

To that end Island Fish purchases from Shetland Seafood Auctions electronic market and has several fishing boats landing direct to the company.

With the end of the tourist season much of the wholesale restaurant and hotel trade has tapered off and most of what Island Fish processes now goes to mainland buyers.

A joiner by trade, John Martin was fishing part time before setting up Island Fish which is one of the last white fish processors in Shetland.

"We were landing part-boxes and getting very little for it on the market and thought it might have been an idea to process our own catch just to try and increase the value of it."

The company is offering its customers specialities cod tongues and monk cheeks,



Island Fish Monk cheeks

which are a "bit of a delicacy" in Norway and Iceland.

"It's really a bit of the fish that in a lot of countries is highly prized, but here it usually gets dumped," he said. "We are trying to heighten the profile of what you can get out of a fish to make the most of it.

"The cod tongues are good in a stir fry, it is a different texture and taste and we are selling them here in the shop and there are all different recipes on the Internet. We ship a grain of the tongues and monk cheeks south too. It also means less dumping of waste."

### Pelagic fleet donates old nets to good cause

Old nets from Shetland's pelagic fishing fleet have been donated to a charity which recycles netting and donates the proceeds to charity.

Four lorry loads of nets were taken from Shetland recently by the Oor Bairns Charitable Trust.

The charity is led by retired Fraserburgh skipper Willie Whyte, who donates the proceeds from the recycled nets to good causes around the world.

Last year the foundation helped towards new ultrasound scanners in Uganda.

The old nets were picked up recently by Willie's son Will, skipper of the Grateful, when she landed mackerel in Shetland.

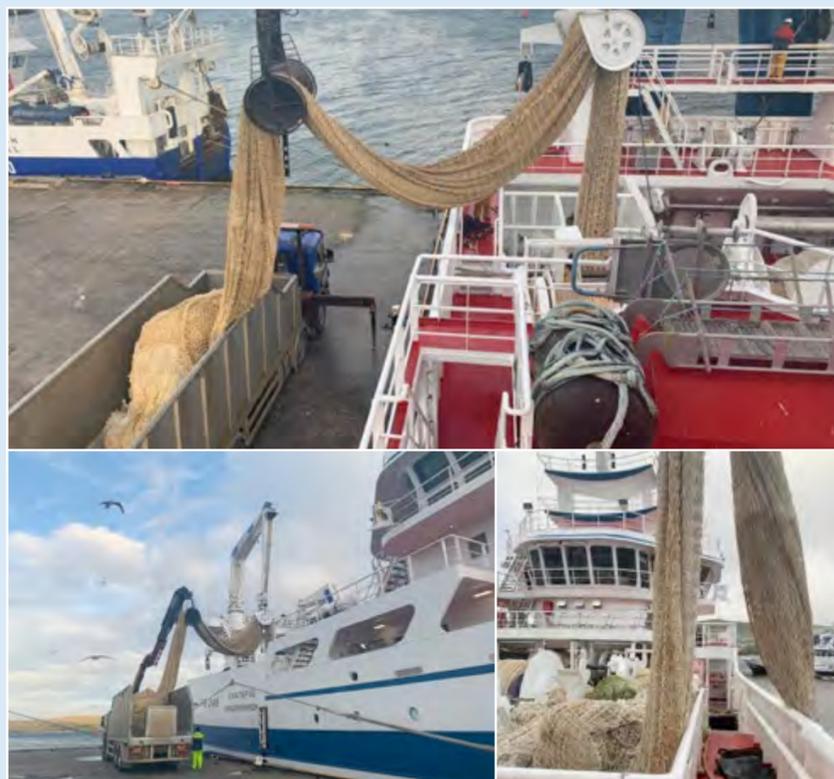
It is not the first time the local fleet has supported the Oor Bairns initiative, with the relationship stretching back years.

Whyte said: "The Shetland skippers have always been good giving us their old nets, so thanks once again to them.

"Will and the boys picked them up when they were in Lerwick and now I'm at work getting them recycled.

"Oor Bairns has been going for 20 years and we've raised hundreds of thousands of pounds for good causes."

Shetland Fishermen's Association's Sheila Keith said: "The local fleet has always been a strong supporter of good causes, local, national and international, and we're glad to have been able to support Willie and his work."



Donated nets being loaded

### New Scalloway fish market to be finished before Christmas

Work on the new Scalloway fish market has been given an expected completion date of 17 December.

The update was given at a meeting of Shetland Islands Council's (SIC) harbour board earlier in November by marine and airport infrastructure manager Andrew Inkster.

Work on the £5.6 million market has been undertaken by the Aberdeen based CHAP group. Inkster said the project continues to progress well.

"We will have to start thinking

about the opening and other formalities," he said.

North mainland councillor Alastair Cooper took the opportunity to stress that "we need to get it right" when it comes to fish management systems being ready in the market before opening.

He sought reassurance that the "best known practice" will be in place when the market opens.

Cooper added that the replacement Scalloway market—as well as the new Lerwick fish market currently under construction—will be a "step



Scalloway fish market

change" in how fish is handled in Shetland.

Last year a record 25,000 tonnes of whitefish, worth

around £50 million, were landed in Shetland, more than, around one sixth of all finfish landed in the UK.

### Call for a better visa system for non-EEA crew members

Orkney and Shetland MP Alistair Carmichael, now the party's candidate for the northern isles seat, has criticised the Conservatives for ignoring calls in the last Parliament to reform the visa system for non-EEA crew of Scottish fishing vessels.

Non-EEA crew members make up approximately 20 per cent of those employed on fishing vessels in the UK, but their designation as "unskilled workers" makes obtaining visas difficult, with knock-on effects for the capacity of the industry.

Carmichael said: "Over the last few years I have led the campaign in Parliament to allow the Scottish fishing fleet access to the crews that they need and cannot recruit even inside the EU.

"This was an issue which commanded cross-party support and should have been an easy decision for the government. Instead they stonewalled and prevaricated while in some ports boats were unable to go to sea."

He continued: "It is not as though there is no clear solution for the problem we face. Recognising fishing crew as the skilled and specialised workers that they are would allow far greater flexibility for our industries to adapt to changeable conditions."



Rosebloom in difficulty. Image courtesy of the RNLI



Image Nate Bryant

### Rosebloom on the rocks

An Inverness registered trawler was towed off rocks to the north east of Lerwick harbour on Saturday 16 November after running aground on the Soldian rock in the early hours of the same day.

The nine strong crew of the 26 metre Rosebloom (INS353) had earlier been taken off the stricken vessel as a precaution.

The Lerwick Port Authority vessels Knab and Kebister managed to pull her off the rock before towing the vessel back to into the harbour for repairs to her hull.

Several earlier attempts by the crew of the Lerwick lifeboat to tow her off had failed.

Lerwick lifeboat deputy coxswain Tommy Goudie said: "The outcome of this grounding could have been a lot worse. Thanks to fair weather and the combined efforts of ourselves and Lerwick Port Authority vessels, the fishing crew are safe, and the vessel is now safely in harbour.

"The crew did the right thing by contacting the coastguard as soon as they knew they needed help. They were wearing survival suits and life jackets and deployed their life raft in case it became necessary.

"Our crew are always ready to respond and we're pleased to be able to assist."

The Rosebloom has since landed fish at Lerwick before heading out to sea again.

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## ORKNEY NEWS *By Craig Taylor*

### Salmon farmers new £1.9m workboat vessel will improve gill health says Scottish Sea Farms

Scottish Sea Farms is set to take delivery of a new purpose-built workboat to increase response times to gill health issues.

This is part of a concerted drive by the salmon grower to boost fish welfare and survival and follows on from its £750,000 investment in two gill-health related research projects.

Costing £1.9m, the *Fair Isle*—named after the island that lies between Shetland and Orkney—will service Scottish Sea Farms' more northerly regions delivering proactive, preventative veterinary treatment for gill health issues as they emerge, says the company.

This, in turn, will enable existing workboat, the *Sally Ann*, to dedicate itself to the company's mainland farms, ensuring faster response times across the estate.

Built by Dutch-based Nauplius Workboats, the 21.2m x 9.3m *Fair Isle* has a service speed of eight knots, combined with the sturdiness and stability to fulfil duties even in the more extreme weather conditions of Shetland and Orkney.

### Darts players RNLI and Fishermen's Mission fundraiser

A total of 40 players entered the Davy Cooper Memorial Darts Tournament held in the Kirkwall Masonic Club recently.

Organised by the KDDL, and held in memory of the late Orkney darts player, Mr Cooper, it is also a fundraiser for the RNLI and Fishermen's Mission, with prizeboards, raffles and a coin push all adding to the fantastic £730 total raised on the day from generous players.

At the end of the competition, the score was Stevie Linklater 4, Brett Dickinson 0 in the final, where missed doubles made all the difference, with the seasoned campaigner Stevie, winning the cup for the third time, and retaining the trophy after winning it last year.

League president Craig Taylor thanked all who came along, donated prizes, and gave so generously throughout the event.

A cheque presentation will be made to the charities later in the season.

## Historic boats will survive



Arne Kjode



Waterlily

THE Orkney Historic Boat Society (OHBS), which was set up to preserve historic boats and related traditional boat building skills and crafts, has been gifted two vessels recently to add to its collection.

Martin Foulis from Deerness has donated the 150-year-old North Isles yole *Waterlily* (commonly referred to by the family, who owned her for five generations, as *Lily*), and the vessel has been now been added to the OHBS collection.

*Waterlily* is a small North Isles yole of 14ft length and 6ft beam. She has a dipping lug sail and jib.

The yole is believed to have been built in Eday around 1870-1880, possibly by Robert Miller of Sandybank, Eday, who was a boat builder in Eday from the mid-1850s to c1910.

He served his apprenticeship under renowned Sanday boatbuilder Thomas Omand, in the early 1850s.

The boat has been with the Foulis family in Deerness for five

generations now, having been used for family fishing trips and leisure.

The second boat which has recently also been kindly gifted to the organisation has been donated by the Annal family of South Ronaldsay. The vessel is a former lifeboat from the Norwegian Norwegian Motor Tanker *Arne Kjode*. This lifeboat was used in earnest when the tanker was torpedoed by U-41 north west of the Outer Hebrides on November 12, 1939.

Of the ship's complement, five died and 35 survived. At the time of the sinking, the ship was a neutral vessel and unescorted. The sinking of the tanker was to be cited as an atrocity during the post-war Nuremberg trial of Admiral Donitz, Norway having been a neutral country at the time of the sinking.

Jimmy Clouston, chairman of the OHBS, said: "Research is ongoing, and we have someone translating Norwegian documents which give the full report of the *Arne Kjode* sinking."

"The lifeboat we have survived an attempt by a British trawler, fitted with a gun, to sink it after the occupants were rescued.

"When the boat didn't sink they towed it to Stroma, where they stopped adjacent to the harbour and blasted their horn at six in the morning until some islanders came off and took the swamped boat ashore.

"The Stroma men were going to cut her up and use her to build hen houses but James Rosie of Swona, across for a visit, said he could fix her and bought her.

"He fixed her up and fitted an engine, cabin and seating, etc, so that she could be used as a backup ferry for the Hood. As it turned out she was hardly ever used as a ferry boat and has lain at Herston for many, many years.

"Surprisingly, the timber of the hull is still in very good condition with no signs of rot. The fact that she was built using copper fastenings has helped her survival."

## Carmichael: fisheries action needed despite election

THE Liberal Democrat candidate for Orkney and Shetland, Alistair Carmichael has pressed the Government in the House of Commons on its preparations for the December Fisheries Council, due to be held on 16-17 December.

The Fisheries Council will take place four days after the planned general election and is likely to include discussions on the catch levels of North Sea Cod.

Speaking in the House, Mr Carmichael asked: "The December Fisheries Council will be on the Monday and Tuesday following the election. Every indication is

that it is going to be a challenging negotiation, so can he tell the House what he is doing now to make sure that the voice of the fishing industries is properly heard and represented at that Council?"

Responding for the Government, George Eustice MP said: "I had meetings with officials yesterday to discuss the issue of cod and EU-Norway negotiations. Those negotiations will take place during November and I will continue to monitor events. The December Fisheries Council will formally adopt these proposals after the General Election."

Reacting after the exchange,

Mr Carmichael said: "The Government must not take its eye off the ball regarding the coming Fisheries Council. This crucial round of talks—which will directly impact fishermen in the Northern Isles—will not simply stop because there is an election on.

"The recent changes to the status of North Sea cod are particularly important to our whitefish fleet. The scientific advice may make these negotiations difficult. We need determined and focused negotiators and political support to ensure that we get the best possible settlement for our fishermen."



## ICELAND NEWS *By Gudjón Einarsson*

### Fishing fleet continues to shrink

IN Iceland, the fishing year starts on the 1st of September when new quotas are issued. This year 466 ships and boats of all sizes were allotted fishing quotas. The number of vessels with fishing quotas has been gradually decreasing in recent years following a dramatic reduction during the previous decade. In 2005, for example, fishing permits were allotted to 1,111 vessels.

The downsizing of the fleet is greatest in the small boat sector. Fifteen years ago 848 small boats received fishing quotas. Now, this sector consists of only 329 boats. The number of stern trawlers has furthermore dropped from 66 to 37 during this period and the number of ships other than stern trawlers and small boats has been reduced from 197 to 100.

#### BUYING OTHER OPERATORS OUT

The reduction of the fleet has taken place without any government interference. No scrapping plan. No official compensation for pulling boats out of operation. Vessel owners have simply bought other vessel owners out of business by purchasing their quotas. The greatest consolidation of small boat quotas took place following the abolition of an effort quota system when fishing days were replaced with transferable fishing quotas. However, small boat quotas cannot be transferred to larger vessels and vice versa.

#### SIZE LIMIT INCREASED

In the small boat system, only long line and jigs are allowed as fishing gear. Prior to 2013, the allowable maximum size of a boat in the small boat quota system was 15 GT. Then a new law was passed pushing the limit to 30 GT. Subsequently, bigger boats were built and they needed additional quotas. This has resulted in further consolidation of quotas. Now the 50 largest small boats have acquired 88% of the total small boat quota, up from 74% in 2013. Furthermore, 42% of the total haddock small boat quota are possessed by ten



Small boats in harbour, in Iceland.

companies. This development has been lamented by The National Association of Small Boat Owners which opposed the law of 2013.

#### FREE FOR ALL

So what happened to the hundreds of small boats that sold away their fishing rights and were subsequently pulled out of the commercial fishery? Many of them have had a comeback thanks to a system that was created in 2009 allowing any registered boat to take part in a free for all fishery during the summer months of May, June, July and August. This year 11, 100 tons, mostly cod, were allocated to this fishery. Every boat is permitted to fish for 12 days during each month. The fishery is limited to Mondays through Thursdays and the catch per boat per fishing trip must not exceed 650 kg. Only jigs are allowed as fishing gear. This year 623 small boats took advantage of this free for all fishing system.

#### STERN TRAWLERS ACQUIRE HALF OF THE QUOTA

At the beginning of the current



A large boat, maximum size, in the small boat system, 14 meters long and 30 GT.

fishing year, a total quota of 435 thousand tons was divided between 466 vessels. Stern trawlers received 218 thousand tons (50% of the total), other larger ships got 163 thousand tons (38%) and small boats were allotted 56 thousand tons (12%). Quotas for pelagic fish jointly utilised with other nations are not included and will be decided later.

#### THE BIG FIVE CONTROL 30%

Almost one-third of the total fishing quota (32% to be exact) is in the hands of five fishing companies, Brim (former HB Grandi), Samherji, FISK

Seafood, Thorfish and Visir. The ten largest fishing companies control 52% of the total quota and the twenty largest own 72%. These figures have been relatively stable in recent years. No company is allowed to own more than 12% of the total quota in cod equivalents (the term refers to weight and the relative value of different species on the market compared with cod). The highest quota allotted to an individual vessel, 10,354 tons/cod equivalents, went to Sólberg, owned by Rammi in Siglufjordur in North-Iceland. Of individual communities, the Westman Islands are the largest quota holder with 42,000 tons/cod equivalents.

## Funding for Killybegs and Burtonport harbour projects welcomed

Cathaoirleach of Donegal County Council, Cllr Nicholas Crossan has welcomed the announcement by Minister for Rural and Community Development Michael Ring TD of funding of just over €6.6m for rural regeneration and development projects in Killybegs and Burtonport.

"I am delighted to see Killybegs and Burtonport included in this tranche of funding under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund. This funding represents a substantial investment for Donegal and will deliver significant benefits not just for Killybegs and Burtonport but for the entire county and the north west region", he said.

Funding of over €6.6m has been awarded to Donegal County Council for the two projects with just over €3.6m being awarded to Killybegs 2040 and €3m to Harbour to Island Regeneration project between Ailt an Chorráin (Burtonport) and Oileán Arrainn Mhór.

Killybegs 2040 is a transformative town centre regeneration project comprising multiple elements including the redevelopment of an existing building in the harbour area to house a Tourism Information Centre and Digital Hub along with associated civic space, that will enhance the physical, social and economic capacity of Killybegs.

Confirming details of the funding last month, Donegal's Minister Joe McHugh said the investment in Killybegs was aimed at making Killybegs a more attractive place to live and work.

The Minister for Education and Skills said that the investments for Burtonport and Arrainn Mhór would target "facilities that link the island to the mainland and that in turn will drive the tourism, marine and leisure sectors in the area and support the ambitions of repopulation."

The Harbour to Island Regeneration project between Burtonport and



Burtonport, Co. Donegal on a calm day. Photo by Declan McGrath

Árainn Mhór will deliver improved infrastructure at the harbour in Burtonport and provide shorefront amenity infrastructure on Árainn Mhór.

This project will address dereliction, transform the harbour environment and infrastructure to a multi-user space with modern transport infrastructure, public amenities and services and parking. It will deliver land

mark high-quality shorefront recreation, outdoor amenity and local community inspired amphitheatre style event space on the Island.

The funding was announced as part of an overall funding package of €62m under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund with these two projects being among 26 projects awarded funding nationally.

## Killybegs Marine Surveyors

Founded by Noel McGettigan, "Marine Surveyor DipMarSur" Killybegs Marine Surveyors offers a professional marine surveying and consultancy service to its clients across Ireland. Based in Killybegs Noel offers a one-stop-shop for all your marine needs – from a pre-purchase survey, marine Superintendency, Certificate of Compliance training for fishing vessels, to underwater hull drone surveys. Having recently completed

a diploma in marine surveying, Noel is an accredited member and with the International Institute of Marine Surveyors which is one of the world's leading professional body for marine surveyors.

Having started his career in the fishing industry at the age of 16, progressing through the ranks from deckhand to engineer, first mate and then skipper, before going into the commercial side of shipping where he achieved his Master's Certificate of Competency, Noel is well versed

with the sector.

And with over 30 years of marine experience he can guide and advise you on the correct path whatever the issue may be. Noel has also been involved in the build of many large tugs in Europe, windfarm vessels in Ireland and supervised the build of same. For many years Noel was involved in the Corrib Gas pipeline where clients relied on his skills to manage their vessels.

Whether you are looking for a Marine Consultant with the expertise to advise you on the best solutions for your business, a pre-purchase,

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## Hegarty's Boatyard

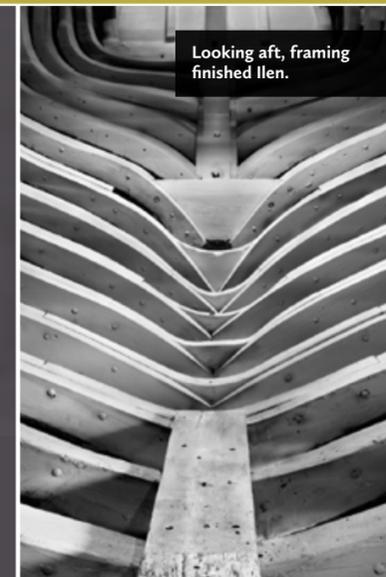
Last Surviving Traditional Wooden Boatyard in Ireland



A Photographic Essay  
Kevin O'Farrell



John Hegarty Sealing the garboard seam of a Hegarty punt.



Looking aft, framing finished Ilen.

**H**egarty's Boatyard: A photographic essay by Kevin O'Farrell, has just been published by Ilen River Press. A small piece of West Cork heritage, with a foreword by Maritime Historian Cormac Levis, the 176 page full colour and black and white photo book captures the story of one of the last surviving traditional wooden boatyards in Ireland – Hegarty's Boatyard in Skibbereen.

In an era of volume-produced fibreglass boats, Hegarty's yard exists in a world that is fast disappearing – one where skills and traditions are passed down from one generation to the next, and beautiful hand-crafted boats are made with passion and integrity. Over the last twenty-five years, Hegarty's have continued to produce a wide range of handcrafted wooden boats, enabling the revival of the once-lost fishing yawls of West Cork.

The Skibbereen yard is the last echo of a long tradition of vernacular boat building in Ireland that once took place all around our coast, with different areas producing varying local designs, depending on requirements and the sea and weather conditions of the locality. The majority would have been timber-built, used for fishing or cargo transportation, a few for pleasure use. Sadly, all the large scale commercial wooden boat builders in Ireland are now gone.

This book by documentary photographer, Kevin O'Farrell is a celebration of all traditional wooden boat builders but most especially the wonderful craftsmen of Hegarty's Boatyard. Established by Paddy Hegarty shortly after the Second World War, today his grandson Paddy Hegarty carries on that tradition – the third generation of Hegarty boatbuilders to work at the same site on the banks of the River Ilen.

Speaking of the project, Kevin O'Farrell said: "Watching these boat builders at work today offers an insight into previous generations of craft workers as their tools and skills remain unchanged. It is an honour to witness this work and to record this important maritime heritage for future generations. "While our past heritage is respected and commemorated in museums and publications, there is very little in the way of support for our living craft heritage workers. This book seeks to rectify that anomaly and serves as a tribute to the extraordinary living maritime heritage that is practiced daily in Hegarty's yard."

A copy of Hegarty's Boatyard, which launches November 28th at the West Cork Hotel, Skibbereen (7-9 pm), can be picked up in all good bookshops or online at [www.kevinofarrellphotographer.com](http://www.kevinofarrellphotographer.com). The perfect gift for any Skipper reader at home or away this Christmas!



A freshly steamed plank is rushed from the steam pot to the Ilen.



Phil Jackson and Fachtna O'Sullivan caulking the port side of the Ilen.



The Ilen leaving the top shed at Hegarty's Boatyard

# TILLY



NEW BOAT

### FACT FILE

**NAME:** Tilly  
**SKIPPER:** Johnny Bennett  
**REGISTRATION:** WD 3  
**HOMEPORT:** Kilmore Quay  
**CREW:** 3  
**OWNERS:** O.F. Fishing  
**VESSEL TYPE:** Beam trawler  
**BUILD YEAR:** 2019  
**BOATYARD:** LUYT  
**LENGTH:** 26.05m  
**BEAM:** 6.75m  
**DEPTH:** 3.10m  
**DRAUGHT:** 4.3m  
**GROSS TONNAGE:** 122GT  
**FUEL CAPACITY:** 22,600 litres  
**FRESH WATER CAPACITY:** 8,400 litres

## IRELAND'S FIRST NEW BEAMER, MFV TILLY WD 3, ARRIVES HOME

The O'Flaherty Brothers' new beamer, MFV *Tilly* WD 3, arrived home to Kilmore Quay from the yard in Den Oever on November 10th and has just started fishing in the Celtic Sea.

Crowds gathered in Kilmore Quay last month, to welcome the O'Flaherty's new beamer home to Kilmore Quay. There was great anticipation on the pier as people eagerly awaited the arrival of the new beamer—Ireland's first newly built beamer, and the first new boat for Kilmore Quay in thirty two years—as

*Tilly* appeared on the horizon. With her beams up, eventually and to great excitement, *Tilly* proudly steamed into the harbour with the tide for her official naming ceremony.

Named after the O'Flaherty's mother, widely known as Tilly (though her real name is Mary or as Denis pointed out in his speech, 'just' Mam to the O'Flaherty

Brothers growing up), the *Tilly* WD 3 was warmly greeted by cheers from the community of Kilmore Quay and well-wishers from around the coast who had gathered on the pier.

Champagne and speeches ensued. Denis O' Flaherty thanked all those involved over the course of the build process, with special mention going to skipper Johnny

Tilly WD 3 coming into Kilmore Quay for the first time. Image: Sean O'Flaherty



Handing over the Tilly flag (L-R) Denis O'Flaherty, Tilly O'Flaherty, Jacqueline Luyt, Patrick Koopman (LUYT) and Seamus O'Flaherty. Image: Ger Hore



Tilly O'Flaherty officially christens the vessel. Image: Ger Hore



Ready for home. Image courtesy of Denis O'Flaherty

Bennett for his work over the last few weeks in Holland making the final preparations for the new boat's journey home. Jacqueline Luyt and Patrick Koopman from the yard also spoke, thanking the O'Flahertys, skipper and crew, and wishing them all the best with *Tilly* WD 3.

*Tilly* is the first new Irish build completed by the family owned firm, who acted as the main contractor on the new beamer, responsible for the entire build from design to completion. There were flowers for Tilly O'Flaherty, before Jacqueline and Patrick presented the O'Flahertys with the Tilly flag, signifying the vessel's change in ownership from the yard to her new owners.

The vessel was then officially christened by Tilly herself, with the customary breaking of a bottle of champagne on her bow, and the new boat was blessed by local priest, Fr Coghley, before a gangplank was loered and family, friends and well-wishers were invited aboard to tour the impressive new build.

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**Congratulations to the O'Flaherty family and crew on your new vessel "TILLY"**

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Congratulations to Johnny, family & crew. We wish you many years of safe & successful fishing.



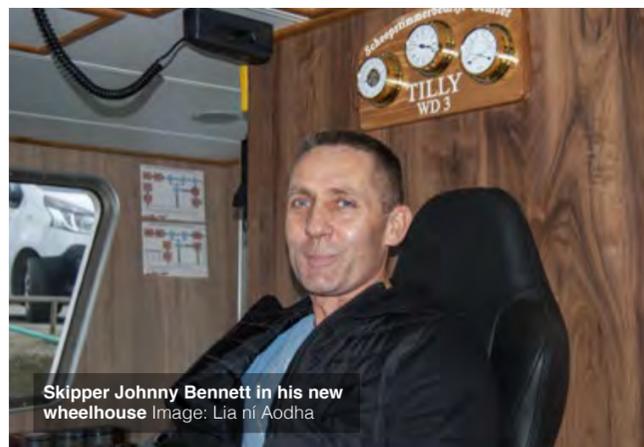
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**Best wishes to Skipper John, family and crew with your new vessel TILLY**



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Skipper Johnny Bennett in his new wheelhouse Image: Lia ní Aodha

MAIN DIMENSIONS AND VESSEL OVERVIEW

Given the long history between the O'Flaherty Brothers and LUYT—with the yard looking after their vessels for some years—going with LUYT for the new build, was an easy decision, according to Denis O'Flaherty. In terms of specifications, staying within the capacity available to them was crucial.

Tilly WD 3 is yard's own design, developed in collaboration with Gaastmeer Design. In terms of design, the vessel is technically simple but reliably equipped. 6.05m in length, Tilly WD 3 has a beam of 6.75m, a moulded depth of 3.10m and a draught 4.3m. The vessel's hull was constructed at Ibis Shipyards, before being towed to the LUYT yard at Den Oever for fitting out and completion.

Powered by a Mitsubishi S6R2-T2MPTK main engine (324kW @ 1,800rpm) connected to a Masson Marine MM W7400 RCA gearbox with a 10.594:1 reduction ratio, driving a Promarin 2,700mm-diameter propeller, the vessel is also fitted with two Mitsubishi 6D16-TE2 auxiliary engines run 120kVA generators, a Caterpillar C2.2 auxiliary and a 62kW bow thruster.

The beamer's LUYT manufactured six-drum trawl winch, type BT-H06-2-HA130-OH features two main, two derrick and two Gilson drums. The hydraulically driven and pneumatically controlled six-drum winch, is the thousandth LUYT winch produced by the yard over its 60-year history! Positioned in front under the main deck for better weight distribution, trim and stability, the design, according to skipper Johnny Bennett, will also mean less wear and tear on the wheelhouse.

Tilly WD 3 is also fitted out with two electric landing winches

for landing and deck work. Fish handling equipment aboard — bins, elevator belt, conveyor belt, fish washer—was supplied by De Boer RVS. Refrigeration for the fishroom, which holds approximately 600 boxes, was supplied by Polar. The gear aboard the Tilly was made by BTG Nets and assembled by the O'Flahertys themselves. "Mick Bates makes them, whatever we need," said Johnny. Safety equipment onboard was supplied by Atlantic Marine in Killybegs and CIV in Den Oever.

WHEELHOUSE

The complete wheelhouse electronics package onboard the O'Flaherty's new build beamer was supplied and fitted by Stephen Jones, i-Fish Marine Electronics. Skipper Johnny Bennett choose the equipment and the layout after careful consideration, to ensure latest technology was fitted to help the vessel be safe and operate well. A lot of time was spent to make sure as much as possible was visible & accessible from the skipper's chair.

Two new radar models were chosen: the first being a powerful 25kW model mounted top of the forward towing gantry, networked into one of the Timezero plotters to allow overlay of the radar scan on the normal navigation chart. Each Timezero plotter onboard uses 3 x 24" glass screens allowing many different configurations of 2D, 3D depth, 3D hardness, radar, sounder, weather & routing. The second new radar model was a Furuno 'solid state Doppler radar', networked into the second Timezero plotter. This radar is the first in the world to use Furuno's exclusive Target Analyzer function. Targets that are approaching the vessel automatically change colour to help identify potentially dangerous targets. Green echoes are targets that stay stationary, or are moving away from you,

while red echoes are hazardous targets that are moving towards your vessel.

With both Timezero plotters being networked to radars and sounders onboard, and being online through the VSAT internet system, these plotters are quite different from the basic 2D plotting systems most people are familiar with. Now it is easy to load the current weather forecast for the next week and 'play' the weather shown in colour to easily understand what the weather will be like and plan the fishing trip appropriately. AIS vessels are shown onscreen from the boats own AIS receiver but also from Marine Traffic allowing you to keep an eye on the exact locations of where other vessels are operating. Radar scans can be viewed overlaid on top of the electronic chart giving a better understanding of the area around you. Radar targets can be tracked (ARPA'd) directly through the plotters and not having to select blobs using the radar controls.

The Charity & Taylor onboard internet/WiFi system was fitted to give online access for the skipper & crew whilst at sea which has become a must have these days. Careful consideration was given to the dome location to ensure maximum online time with no blockages and vibration. The audio systems in the wheelhouse and galley can play sound from their FM aerials, USB sticks, Bluetooth connected phones and from the local TV.

EQUIPMENT LIST

Navigation

- Main radar: Furuno FAR2228BB, 25kW with 6.5' open scanner
- Second radar: Furuno DRS6A-NXT, 25w Doppler radar, with 6' open scanner (networked into Timezero)
- Plotter 1+2: MaxSea Timezero Professional v4 (2 licenses)
- Plotter 3: Sodena v8 (with AIS + ARPA)



Job done. Smiles all round at the yard. Image courtesy of Denis O'Flaherty

- Furuno GP170 GPS
- Furuno GP39 GPS
- Furuno GP33 GPS
- Furuno FA-170 AIS
- JRC JLR-21 satellite compass
- JRC NCR-333 Navtex
- Navitron NT888G Autopilot
- Navitron NT921WA

Fish Finders

- Furuno FCV-1150, with 2x 2kW transducers
- Furuno DFF1-UHD network sounder (networked through Timezero), with hardness transducer

Communication

- Furuno FM8900S Class A VHF
- Furuno FM4800 Class D VHF
- Furuno FS-1575, 150w MF/HF Big Set
- Furuno LH5000 loudhailer/intercom
- AC Marine antennae's for

VHF/FM/MF/HF

Others

- Raymarine i70 windvane
- Charity & Taylor Ka VSAT system with 2Mb data
- Intellian i4 satellite tv dome
- Rockford Fosgate PMX-8BB & PMX-8DH for

- wheelhouse audio
- Rockford Fosgate PMX-2 for galley audio
- 7 x AG Neovo X24 screens
- 4 x AG Neovo X19 screens
- 1 x Furuno MU190HD type approved screen
- Lilley & Gillie magnetic compass



Winches. Image: Lia ní Aodha



Fish handling equipment. Image: Lia ní Aodha



Kevin Doyle and Trevor Devereux, hard at work in Saltees Fish. Image: Lia ní Aodha

Irish South and East Fish Producers Organisation



Congratulations and best wishes to The O'FLAHERTY Family on the launch of their new vessel TILLY.

Viewmount Hse, Viewmount Park, Dunmore Rd, Waterford.  
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Email: ISEFPO@gmail.com



Wheelhouse Image: Stephen Jones, i-fish



**LUYT GROEP**

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Congratulations to O'Flaherty owners, skipper and crew from all at LUYT. We would like to wish Tilly WD3 every future success.

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**Safety**

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- Emtrak AIS SART
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**EFFICIENCY AND COMFORT**

Tilly will be skippered by Johnny and his crew, Séan Hilliard (Arklow), Joseph Whitty (Passage East) and Bruno Pereira (Portugal) – all of whom have just moved over from one of the O'Flaherty's other boats, the Emer Jane DA 37.

Skipper Johnny Bennett, who comes from a long line of fishermen and has spent most of his life in Kilmore Quay, has been fishing since he was 14 years old. Johnny has been fishing with the O'Flahertys since he was 16 and has skippered a few boats with them over the years.

Involved in the Tilly build from the start, Johnny told *The Skipper*, the new beamer was built with efficiency in mind – efficiency in terms of fuel economy, and efficiency in terms of capacity.

"It's all down to fuel efficiency and then we only had a limited amount of tonnage also, so we had to build a boat to suit that," said Johnny.

No doubt, designed with crew comfort in mind as well, the vessel is fitted with comfortable accommodation for four. The spacious and well laid out galley aboard is well equipped with all the mods cons.

In terms of comfort, Johnny said, "we have everything we need. All the mod cons."

The journey home from the yard in Holland was rough, said Johnny, but the boat's seakeeping capabilities got a good testing along the way.

"We were nicely battered by a gale nearly the entire way home. When we left we were steaming into a south-west gale and then coming up the



Saltees Fish own fleet of trucks.  
Image: Lia ní Aodha

English channel we had about 8 hours of fairly ok weather and then the rest of it was a gale. Coming around Land's End we had a north-west gale".

Glad to be home, but looking forward to getting started to find out if the boat is going to do what she was designed to do when speaking to *The Skipper* Johnny was keen to get away to sea.

Optimistic that she will, he said, "We did ok with the last boat we were on so..."

"We've done plenty of trials and she's performing ok as far as trials are concerned, but the fishing side of it is obviously what we want to make sure of. We've tested our gear as far as testing engines and performance, we just need to fish our own waters now and see that she can do what she's designed to do," he said.

At the time *The Skipper* was going to print Tilly WD 3 had just gone to sea. She will mostly fish off the south coast in the Celtic Sea for megrim, monkfish, lemon sole... "Anything we have quota for," said Johnny.

**CUTTING OUT THE MIDDLE MAN**

Tilly WD 3 is the latest addition to the O'Flaherty

Brother's impressive fleet, which today amounts to nineteen boats – comprised mainly of beamers, but also including several trawlers, two scallopers and the recently added Seiner, Kennedy WD 135.

Since beginning their operations in 1987, the six O'Flaherty Brothers have continuously moved forward in the industry, creating local employment along the way. Brendan and John are skippers, Seamus, Denis and William are shore engineers and Michael runs their marketing and distribution operations in the factory.

Mainly landing into Kilmore Quay, Arklow or Dunmore East, the fish landed by the O'Flaherty's boats goes through their own Saltees Fish. Operating out of Kilmore Quay, Saltees Fish was founded in 1996 by the O'Flahertys, cutting out the middle man.

From small beginnings operating out of the old net room of Kilmore Quay Fisherman's Coop, they now trade from an impressive facility, featuring up to date loading bays, an ice plant and storage areas.

That which can be sold in



Paul Foley, Saltees Fish.  
Image: Lia ní Aodha

Ireland, meaning the fish Irish consumers will eat, stays in Ireland – around 40%, much of which goes to the Dublin market, 60% goes to Europe. Most of what the Tilly WD 3 will catch will go to Bilbao, Barcelona and Madrid.

Saltees Fish itself directly employs 20 staff at Kilmore Quay, mostly locals or people from the surrounding areas, many of which have been working with the from the start. Indirectly, the company employs over 100 fishermen.

Saltees Fish also owns its own fleets of transport vehicles, for distribution and collection, meaning they can guarantee their product arrives at its destination in top condition at the right time.

Speaking to *The Skipper*, Denis O'Flaherty said, "Really that's our priority. Looking after the fish onboard. Looking after quality. And then getting the fish to market as quickly and as freshly as possible."

*The Skipper team would like to wish the O'Flahertys, Skipper Johnny, crewmen Séan, Joseph and Bruno and all of their families every success with the new boat. Safe and good fishing to you all!*

**FIFISH V6 Underwater Drone / ROV with 6 Thrusters and 4K Camera**

Mantsbrite Marine Electronics have been appointed as UK and Irish Distributor for the FIFISH V6, the world's first omnidirectional underwater Drone / ROV. On display at Irish Skipper Expo 2020, the FIFISH V6 is powered by 6 thrusters allowing precise control and remarkable manoeuvrability, currently there are no other ROV's at this price level which have the same freedom of movement as the FIFISH V6. The 6 thrusters are a clear advantage as they allow the FIFISH V6 to move sideways, forwards/backwards, up/down, roll, pan, tilt and yaw with exceptional stability down to a maximum depth of 100m.

Manoeuvrability and control are important aspects when considering the intended use of any underwater Drone / ROV, the importance of being able to move laterally alongside an object makes inspection tasks so much easier. The FIFISH V6 has a number of special features such as Posture Lock™ and Depth Lock that set it aside for inspection and filming tasks. Posture Lock™ allows the user to set the pitch or roll angle to within 0.1° then lock this angle e.g. tilt the FIFISH V6 to 45° then lock that angle while moving in the desired direction. Depth lock allows the user to lock the depth at which it operates. These features are especially useful when performing hull, seabed, wreck, dock inspections etc.

The integrated Sony 4K UHD camera has an ultra-wide angle lens giving 166°

field of view compared to 95° as typically found, the wider field of view is better for video photography and will provide more information for inspection tasks. With two variable intensity 2000 lumen LED headlights the FIFISH V6 can be used to record video or take photos even when there is no ambient light. The camera having an aperture of 2.5 and a maximum ISO of 6,400 performs well in low light conditions and provides bright clear images. The camera delivers 4K footage at 30 frames per second or can film at 1080p with an impressive resolution of 120 fps. With an advanced motion stabilisation system the FIFISH V6 also avoids blurred shots.

When in use the FIFISH V6 is connected to the handheld controller by a 50 or 100m cable, and in turn the controller is connected via Wi-Fi to either a smart phone or tablet providing real time video footage where up to 3 devices can connect and simultaneously view the images. An optional HDMI interface box is available allowing the images to be displayed on a TV or monitor with HDMI input.

Another interesting option is the virtual reality headset where the FIFISH V6 moves in the direction the person is looking; it is as if the person is actually onboard the FIFISH V6. The user has full 360° control of the drone's rotations simply by moving their head. Tilt the head sideways to roll the drone, look up to tilt the drone upward, look to the right to pivot the drone to the right.

The FIFISH V6 has a maximum



operational depth of 100m and is powered by a Li-ion battery giving a maximum dive time of 4 hours and has a maximum speed of 3knots. The ROV is compact, measuring 383 x 331 x 143mm and weighs only 3.9Kg

The vast range of applications for the FIFISH V6 includes hull and propeller inspection, aquaculture and fish farming, wind farms, search and rescue, border force, underwater filming etc.

FIFISH is a strong advocate for ocean conservation with 1% of its profits designated for the CleanSea project.

Prices start at €1,499 ex VAT and the FIFISH V6 is available through a number of Irish dealers.

For further information please contact Mantsbrite Marine Electronics, 19F Spital Road, Maldon, Essex, CM9 6DY. Tel +44 1621 853003. E mail sales@mantsbrite.com

**"Best Wishes and safe fishing to Johnny and crew on board the 'MFV TILLY'"**

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**"Congratulations to the O'Flaherty Family and safe fishing to Johnny and crew on board the 'MFV TILLY'"**

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# FISHING IN GAZA

## The Costs of Fishing Under Occupation



Gaza fisherman.  
Image courtesy of Al Mezan  
Center for Human Rights

by Lia ní Aodha

Irish fishermen got a taste this summer of what it is like for a Government to move to make (what as far as fishermen were aware was) a change to the fishing limits in an area on a whim, when the Scottish government announced an intention to start boarding and arresting Irish vessels fishing off Rockall. For Irish fishermen fishing there, as they have done since at least the 1980s, the news came out of the blue, leaving them in a precarious position – uncertain as to what their position up there was, if less uncertain in their resolve not to give up the grounds they'd worked to open up. A tense few weeks that then went dead. Nobody was arrested. No boat was detained. No shots were fired.

But what if that was the reality faced by fishermen every day? How would that affect individual fishermen, their families and the sector as a whole? While it would be remiss to liken the conditions today faced by Irish fishermen with those who live and fish in Gaza, a short report published by Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights last October, detailing the challenging reality faced by people who fish in Gaza under Israeli Occupation, gives some insights.

### VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

According to Al Mezan's figures, there are currently 3,606 fishermen, 1,219 fishing boats and 42 auxiliary boats (used for lighting) in the Gaza Strip. An additional 2,000 people work in fishing-related professions such

as vendors, boat maintenance, and equipment traders. Due to restrictions on their right to work and persistent ill-treatment—constant harassment, arrest and detention, shooting and confiscation of fishing boats and equipment by the Israeli navy—Palestinian fishermen in Gaza experience systematic difficulties practising their livelihood.

Despite the Oslo Accords, signed between Israel and Palestine, stipulating a fishing limit of 20 nautical miles for Palestinian fishermen, Israeli authorities use live fire to enforce a fluctuating 'permitted fishing zone', sometimes prohibiting fishing entirely. By mid-2019, Israeli authorities had imposed a full maritime closure three times since the start of the year and changed the demarcation of the fishing zone 15 times.

In June 2019, Israeli authorities extended the zone that Gaza's fishermen can fish in from ten to 15 nautical miles in the area between the Gaza City port and Rafah, and limited the fishing zone to six nautical miles between the Gaza City port and Beit Lahiyah. 2019 marks the first year that fishermen have been allowed access up to 15 nautical miles. Most years they are restricted to three, six or nine nautical miles.

For Palestinian fishermen, fishing their territorial waters carries multiple risks. According to Al Mezan, since 2015, the Israeli naval forces have carried out 1,043 attacks on fishermen. 1,032 of them involved live fire. Five fishermen have been killed and another 105 fishermen injured, including four children, in the same period.

Since 2015, 374 fishermen have been arbitrarily arrested, including 37 children. During arrest

fishermen are forced to swim to the naval vessels, regardless of weather conditions. They are usually taken to Ashdod port in Israel where, during interrogation, they are reportedly subjected to physical and verbal abuse.

Alongside this, boats are routinely seized from Gaza's fishermen and held for months, sometimes even years. Since 2015, Israeli forces have confiscated 113 boats. In that period there have also been 55 incidents where boats were also damaged or destroyed.

These practices, which violate international law and the rights of fishermen, hinder the work of fishermen in Palestinian territorial waters and restrict their access to Palestine's natural resources. Restrictions on Gaza's fishermen increase during the fishing season.

### STIFLING DEVELOPMENT

Compounding this are further restrictions imposed by the Israeli authorities relating to the importation of materials and equipment deemed to be 'dual-use'—according to Israeli authorities they can be used for civilian or military purposes. On the list are spare parts for engines and fibreglass, making it next to impossible for fishermen to repair or upgrade their boats. Engines with a capacity of 40 horsepower and electronic devices such as GPS systems are also banned.

Following legal action in recent years, some confiscated boats and equipment have been released by Israeli authorities: 40 rowboats and 44 engine-powered boats (without their engines) were returned between November 2018 and July 2019. Nine engines were returned separately within the same period. To date, five owners have been identified.

As a result of poor storage and exposure to direct sunlight and rain, while being held by Israel, most of the boats need repairs, the costs of which are estimated in the region of anywhere between US \$200 to US \$1,500 per boat. Four cannot be repaired at all.

There is no compensation for damages. As a pre-condition of the release of their boats, fishermen must sign a declaration forfeiting their rights to compensation and releasing the Israeli military from responsibility for damages.

According to Gaza's Fishermen's Syndicate, 24 boats, two trawlers and 40 engines are still being held by Israeli forces. Seizures of boats and equipment continue.

All of these factors—frequent

attacks, shrinking fishing zones, restrictions on importing equipment—have had a negative effect on the amount of fishing taking place and consequently on the size of the catch. Together, alongside violating basic human rights, they stifle what would otherwise be a viable economic sector and which once contributed meaningfully to Gaza's economy. Rising fuel prices and a highly unpredictable working environment mean high costs for fishermen, often with no catch. High costs means low incomes – the average monthly income of a fisherman is currently around US\$120. 80 per cent of the fishing community in Gaza live below the poverty line, meaning the fishing community, once prosperous, is now one of the poorest communities in Gaza.

According to available data, the fishing sector continues to diminish in size. A 2010 report by Al Mezan put the number of fishermen in Gaza at 4,400. Today, according to the organisation's figures, that number has diminished by almost a fifth. The sector contributed a measly 2.7 per cent to overall agricultural production for the 2017-2018 season.

In light of the ongoing restrictions, attacks and harassment of fishermen by the Israeli authorities, which Al Mezan highlight are central to the realities today faced by Palestinian fishermen, the organisation has called (once again) on the international community to intervene and urge Israel to remove the crippling restrictions on Gaza's fishing community and uphold the rights of fishermen.

"Given the systematic threats to life and safety that fishermen endure, the international community must also take effective steps to ensure the protection of fishermen, and a safe workplace that can facilitate economic growth."

Earlier this year, despite Fine Gael opposition, the Dáil voted overwhelmingly in favour of a Bill that would ban the sale of imported goods from occupied territories in Palestine. 78 votes to 45 votes, with three abstentions. Progression of the Bill is currently being stalled by the Government.

At the time *The Skipper* was going to print, Israel had recently carried out a series of air raids on besieged Gaza. Reports indicate 34 Palestinians had been killed. To the best of my knowledge, no Israeli fatalities were reported in the media.

# BROTHERHOOD OF NETS

By Kevin Whelan

It was a snowstorm that brought the six fishermen to the same hotel: Eoin, Pete, Lars, Gianni, Tobias, and Masahiro.

An Irishman, an Englishman, a Swede, an Italian, a Cameroonian, and a Japanese: it sounds like the beginning of a bad joke.

How it was that each one just happened to be travelling in the same country at the same time and found shelter in the same place: this should not concern us. If you pay close attention you will discover that extraordinary coincidences occur more often than sophisticated people especially would like to admit – or ever admit.

They checked in, then headed to the bar: hot whiskies all round. Then each man retired to sit alone and in silence at a table, cold hands soon warmed by malt, and wondered about the odd series of events that had brought them there.

All had someone they loved and missed. Soon phones were produced and calls home made, but the reception was poor: no friendly voice could be reached.

Each man looked around indifferently at the other: the Scandinavian at the Japanese, the Japanese at the African, the Italian at the Englishman, the Englishman at the Irishman.

They all had exactly the same thought: It was going to be a very long night.

Time passed; Eoin sighed. At least he had a language in common with the English guy.

He crossed the room and asked Pete if he could join him.

"So, what's your line of work?" he asked.

"I'm a fisherman," Pete said.

"No kidding!" said Eoin.

"Me too!"

"Trawler?"

"Practically raised on one."

"Same here," Pete said.

"Want another drink?"

Without waiting for a reply

he hurried to the bar to refresh their glasses.

Tobias overheard them. "Did I hear you guys say you were fishermen?"

They nodded.

"I'm a fisherman!"

Now it was Gianni's turn. "Are you all really fishermen? Because—"

"You are too," Tobias guessed.

That's when Lars and Masahiro joined in.

The fishermen ordered more drinks, then arranged their chairs in a circle.

Into the night they drank and talked: of adventures at sea, of strange superstitions that made sense only to fishermen, and the bizarre things they had seen and caught in their nets, beasts no one would ever believe could possibly exist; of peculiar sights and ghostly sounds and other spooky events that only fishermen and those drawn to the wild freedom of the sea know anything of.

And stuff about fear and loneliness too, and how their families worried for them. Out There for weeks on end. And of course they talked about money, how tough things had gotten, and how a certain type looked down on them, often a patronising if well-meaning in-law who couldn't understand why they didn't find an easier way to earn a living on land, because who could possibly want to devote their lives to hauling in nets of squirming, stinking fish or crab, and all those long, dangerous hours... What was wrong with them?

"Yes, no one understands us, except...us", Masahiro concluded a little sadly. The others nodded.

"Truly, you must live this life to understand it," Lars said.

They drank, laughed and even wept: for friends made and lost forever to the black depths of their severe master, benefactor, and teacher, rolling upon the mercy of waves that rose and fell like knives. And how nothing was ever certain: a man had to accept whatever the fates had in store for him and always



Skipper of fishing trawler 'Laetitia', Thomas Sheehan, with son Colin, loads a new net onto his boat in preparation for a fishing trip. Schull, West Cork, Ireland. Picture: Andy Gibson

trust in God, as unfashionable as that was these days. But they were fishermen. When did they ever care about what was fashionable?

Soon it was morning. The fishermen breakfasted together. The hotel manager, curious about his guests,

asked a waitress: "Who are those tough-looking guys?" What he really wanted to know was what such an unlikely gathering could possibly have in common. "Old friends, by the looks of things," the waitress guessed.



## PUBLIC NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A FORESHORE APPROVAL

### Irish Water for the Proposed Waste Water Treatment Plant at Arklow, Co. Wicklow

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 19A (1) of the Foreshore Act 1933 (as amended), that Irish Water, Colvill House, 24 – 26 Talbot Street, Dublin 1 has applied for approval under the Foreshore Acts to occupy an area of foreshore for works in connection with the proposed Waste Water Treatment plant at Arklow, Co. Wicklow for works comprising of a storm water outfall (SWO) at Alps, underpinning works at Arklow Bridge and associated infrastructure including land reclamation, an interceptor sewer network, marine outfalls and upgrade to coastal revetment.

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) has been prepared in respect of this proposal. The foreshore application, EIAR, associated documents, all relevant maps, site plans and drawings may be inspected at the following locations:

- **Arklow Garda Station, Castle Park, Arklow, Co. Wicklow (24 hours).**
- **Arklow Public Library, 7 Main Street, Arklow, Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10.00 to 17.00 hours; Tuesday and Thursday 10.00 to 20.30 hours (Library closed on Sundays and bank holiday weekends).**
- **Arklow Municipal District, Castle Park, Arklow Co. Wicklow Monday – Friday from 09.00 to 16.00 hours.**

A hard copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report may be purchased from the applicant at Irish Water, Colvill House, 24

– 26 Talbot Street, Dublin 1. A Non-Technical Summary may be obtained free of charge.

CDs that include the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, maps, site plans and drawings, and a copy of the foreshore application are available free of charge from the applicant at the address stated above or by emailing [arklowtp@water.ie](mailto:arklowtp@water.ie).

The application may also be viewed on the following dedicated website: [www.water.ie/arklowforeshore](http://www.water.ie/arklowforeshore)

and on the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government's website at: [www.housing.gov.ie/planning/foreshore/applications/irish-water-waste-water-treatment-plant](http://www.housing.gov.ie/planning/foreshore/applications/irish-water-waste-water-treatment-plant).

The Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government is responsible for making a decision on this application and he may either grant, approve or consent to the application with or without covenants, conditions or agreements, where applicable, or refuse the application.

Section 19C of the Foreshore Act does not apply to this application. Submissions, comments in relation to the proposal may be made in writing within 8 weeks from the publication of this notice to the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government at Foreshore Section, Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, Newtown Road, Wexford, Co. Wexford or by e-mail to [foreshore@housing.gov.ie](mailto:foreshore@housing.gov.ie) (quoting Ref: FS 006862). The closing

date for the receipt of written submissions, comments or questions is therefore 17:30 on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

Within 8 weeks from the publication of this notice, a copy of the application, the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and any other relevant report or information (including copies of any submissions, comments, or questions received by the appropriate Minister) may be inspected free of charge at the Foreshore Section Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, Newtown Road, Wexford, Co. Wexford during the hours 10:00 to 13:00 and 14:00 to 17:00 Monday to Friday.

All objections and representations received will be forwarded to the applicant for comment prior to any decision being made in the matter. Material upon which the Minister shall determine this application will be published on the Department's website. In this regard the Department wishes to draw attention to its policy on defamatory material that may be contained in submissions it receives which may be found on the Department's website at:

[www.housing.gov.ie/planning/foreshore/public-participation-foreshore-consent-process](http://www.housing.gov.ie/planning/foreshore/public-participation-foreshore-consent-process)

Department's website.

Dated this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of October 2019

**Irish Water, Colvill House, 24 – 26 Talbot Street, Dublin 1**

## PUBLIC NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A FORESHORE CONSENT

Greenlink Interconnector Limited for Interconnector between EirGrid's Great Island substation in County Wexford (Ireland) and the National Grid's Pembroke substation in Pembrokeshire (Wales)

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 19A of the Foreshore Act 1933 (as amended), that Greenlink Interconnector Limited, Mason Hayes and Curran, South Bank House, Barrow Street, Dublin 4 has applied for consent under the Foreshore Acts to occupy an area of foreshore for an Interconnector between EirGrid's Great Island substation in County Wexford (Ireland) and the National Grid's Pembroke substation in Pembrokeshire (Wales).

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) has been prepared in respect of this proposal. The foreshore application, EIAR, associated documents, all relevant maps, site plans and drawings may be inspected at the following locations:

- **Waterford Garda Station, Patrick Street, Waterford City**
- **New Ross Garda Station, Marshmeadows, New Ross, Co. Wexford**
- **Wexford Public Library, Mallin St., Wexford (Monday to Saturday, during the hours 10.30am to 5.30pm)**
- **Wexford County Council, County Hall, Carricklawn, Wexford (Monday to Friday, during the hours 9am-1pm/2pm-5pm)**

A hard copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report may be purchased from the applicant. A Non Technical Summary may be obtained free of charge.

CDs that include the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, maps, site plans and drawings, and a copy of the foreshore application are available free of charge from the applicant at the address stated above or by emailing [energy.water.bst@intertek.com](mailto:energy.water.bst@intertek.com).

The application may also be viewed on the following dedicated website: [www.greenlink.ie/foreshorelicenceapplicationireland](http://www.greenlink.ie/foreshorelicenceapplicationireland) and on the Department's website: [www.housing.gov.ie/planning/foreshore/applications/greenlink-interconnector-wexford](http://www.housing.gov.ie/planning/foreshore/applications/greenlink-interconnector-wexford).

The Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government is responsible for making a decision on this application and he may either grant, approve or consent to the application with or without covenants, conditions or agreements, where applicable, or refuse the application.

Section 19C of the Foreshore Act applies to this application.

Submissions, comments in relation to the proposal may be made in writing within 8 weeks from the publication of this notice to the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government at Foreshore Unit, Department for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Newtown Road, Wexford, Co. Wexford or by e-mail to [foreshore@housing.gov.ie](mailto:foreshore@housing.gov.ie) (Quoting Ref: FS007050). The closing date for the receipt of written submissions, comments or questions is therefore 17:30 on 08/01/2020.

Within 8 weeks from the publication of this notice, a copy of the application, the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and any other relevant report or information (including copies of any submissions, comments, or questions received by the appropriate Minister) may be inspected free of charge at the Foreshore Unit, Department for Housing, Planning Local Government, Newtown Road, Wexford, Co. Wexford during the hours 10:00 to 13:00 and 14:00 to 17:00 Monday to Friday. All of this material, including submissions from the public, will also be published on the website of the Department for Housing, Planning and Local Government at: [www.housing.gov.ie/planning/foreshore/applications/greenlink-interconnector-wexford](http://www.housing.gov.ie/planning/foreshore/applications/greenlink-interconnector-wexford)

Dated this day of 12/11/2019.

Greenlink Interconnector Limited, Mason Hayes and Curran, South Bank House, Barrow Street, Dublin 4

intertek

Greenlink  
INTERCONNECTOR

## Cullen Fellow researching early migration mortality in Atlantic Salmon

Aisling Doogan is a PhD student at Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT) and a Cullen Fellow at the Marine Institute. As part of her PhD she is investigating the causes of early migration mortality in Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) from the Burrishoole Catchment in Newport, Co Mayo.

Atlantic Salmon are an important species to Ireland, and famed in Irish folklore and legend. They are also an ecologically important species and their presence is indicative of a healthy ecosystem. In recent decades salmon populations have declined, and Aisling's research aims to increase our understanding of the early life stage of the salmon and areas where salmon may be most vulnerable to mortality.

Salmon hatch in fresh water where juveniles spend between two and three years before migrating to the ocean and returning to fresh water as adults to spawn.

"As salmon are widely dispersed across different habitat types, a number of factors at different life stages can affect their survival. One aspect of my research involves using acoustic telemetry to track salmon smolts – the juveniles migrating to sea. Salmon smolts are tagged at the Newport Research Facility and tracked through Lough Furnace, the Burrishoole Estuary and Clew Bay and as far as Clare Island,"

Aisling said.

Aisling is based at the Marine Institute's Newport Research Facility where hatchery reared salmon ranched from the hatchery and wild salmon, trout and eels are monitored for stock assessment purposes. She is carrying out this research on wild and hatchery ranched salmon of Burrishoole stock origin.

"Tagging the salmon enables us to follow the migration story of the Burrishoole salmon. We can see how long the salmon spend in the lake before continuing to migrate, how fast they swim and how tide and time of day impact migration behaviour. We can even see when a smolt has been predated on within the estuary - it stops behaving like a smolt and its movements began to resemble the behaviour of a seal."

Aisling says the most challenging aspects of her Cullen Fellowship is researching, training and planning for the telemetry experiments. The most enjoyable part is undertaking fieldwork surrounded by sun, sea and salmon.

"During the summer, there were weekly boat trips to Lough Furnace, Clew Bay and Clare Island to download data from the receivers. Being surrounded by sea birds, seals, sunfish, bottlenose dolphins, whales and basking sharks is definitely a highlight for me."

Aisling says one of the benefits of being a Cullen Fellow is the support she received from the



Cullen Fellow, Aisling Doogan

Marine Institute and GMIT. "I have the opportunity to work alongside people with extensive knowledge and experience, and develop many skills by attending training courses and volunteering at open days and outreach events. From improving my communication and presentation skills to learning new software programmes and project planning, I have greatly progressed as an early-career researcher."

Aisling's research is entitled 'Investigation into the causes of early migration mortality in Atlantic Salmon (Salmo salar) from the Burrishoole River using acoustic telemetry in freshwater and coastal areas.' Her supervisors are Dr Deirdre Cotter of the Marine Institute and Dr Deirdre Brophy of GMIT.

The Cullen Fellowship Programme builds marine research capacity and capability by equipping graduates with the skills and expertise in raising awareness about our ocean, as well as Ireland's rich marine biodiversity and ecosystems. The programme has provided grant aid to the value of €2.06 million supporting 24 PhD and three MSc students over the last five years. The research addresses a number of the 15 research themes identified in the National Marine Research & Innovation Strategy 2017-2021.

*This project (Grant-Aid Agreement No. CF/15/07) is carried out with the support of the Marine Institute and funded under the Marine Research Programme by the Irish Government.*

## Latest research on shellfish safety presented at workshop

More than 90 shellfish producers, processors, scientists, researchers, agencies and stakeholder representatives recently attended the 11th Shellfish Safety Workshop to discuss the latest advances in shellfish safety in Ireland.

The workshop was held on 8th October at the Radisson Blu Hotel Athlone, and hosted by the Marine Institute and co-sponsors Food Safety Authority of Ireland, Sea Fisheries Protection Authority and Bord Iascaigh Mhara.

The event offered an opportunity to exchange information on the latest research and information on the cause and control of shellfish products harvested and farmed around Ireland's coast.

Joe Silke, Director of Marine Environment and Food Safety Services at the Marine Institute said, "Ireland's Shellfish Safety Monitoring Programme ensures that shellfish placed on the market meet the highest standards of food safety. This workshop enables scientists and regulators to exchange information and discuss the latest research, advances in technology, and forecast any issues for the industry, to help ensure Ireland continues to offer high-quality products."

Speakers included Dr Conor Graham, GMIT Marine and Freshwater Research Centre on the development of the world's first scientific-based shellfish traceability tool. This unique tool used trace elemental fingerprinting of shellfish soft

tissues and shells to identify the harvest location of blue mussels and scallops with 100% success, including mussels reared from two sites located just 6km apart within the one bay.

Other speakers included Dr Monika Dhanji Rapkova, Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science on the learnings on regulated and emerging biotoxins in British shellfish. Dr Eileen Bresnan, Marine Scotland Science presented a talk on the regional distribution of harmful algal events in North Atlantic Area. Dave Clarke, Marine Institute also talked about the insights and perspectives on monitoring algal and biotoxin events in Irish coastal waters from the past 20 years.

Micéal O'Mahony of the Sea

Fisheries Protection Authority presented on the recently published European baseline survey of norovirus in oysters, while Dr Sinéad Keaveney, Marine Institute discussed the survey in the Irish context.

There were also a series of flash presentations from representatives of the Marine Institute, Bord Iascaigh Mhara, Sea Fisheries Protection Authority, Food Safety Authority of Ireland, Dublin City University, Sligo Institute of Technology and Health Services Executive.

The proceedings of the workshop are currently being compiled for publication in the coming weeks and will be available for download from the Marine Institute's Open Access Repository.

## Shedding light on women in the industry - WSI Watch 2019

**W**SI Watch 2019 has cited Castletownbere's Margaret Downey Harrington's Lifetime Achievement Award, and BIM's Women in Seafood campaign as positive examples of the work being done to promote women in the seafood sector.

The International Association for Women in the Seafood Industry (WSI) recently published the second edition of its annual watch. Last year's edition of WSI Watch focused on recognising women's contributions to fisheries and aquaculture, the second edition, however, is a compilation of stories, initiatives and actions that have been pursued on the theme of women and gender in the seafood industry between January 2018 and July 2019.

Sharing positive initiatives that have been undertaken at different levels in terms of making women more visible in the sector, achieving gender equality or even reinforcing women's capabilities in these areas, WSI Watch 2019

provides details of a number of actions and projects that have been undertaken that highlight the subject is being taken seriously "here and there".

Among the more than 100 stories told from 23 countries in WSI Watch 2019 is Margaret Downey Harrington's Lifetime Achievement Award "for her distinguished career in the Irish fishing industry and for her many contributions to the advancement of the industry."

Highlighting stories of the work women do in fisheries and seafood, according to WSI, "confirm there are no obstacles to a woman being a fisherman, apart from social and cultural barriers." Highlighting the roles played by women in the industry and the inequalities they face is important for a number of reasons – examples of women in leadership roles, for instance, can provide role models for other women and encourage them to pursue those roles.

And because how we talk about things normalises things, initiatives such as those that

draw attention to and celebrate women's work in the industry can have a positive impact. One such initiative by a national public institution cited in the WSI Watch is BIM's campaign promoting women working in the seafood industry launched in March 2018 to highlight the important role women play in the Irish Seafood Sector.

Considering examples such as these, and though the objective of making the contributions women make to the sector visible still remains central, WSI recognises that a new narrative has emerged and significant progress on women's visibility in the sector has been made. Advances, albeit small ones, have even been made with respect to recognition of the inequalities present in the seafood sector.

By sharing that narrative WSI intends "to participate in the diffusion of positive initiatives which shed light on the contributions of women in the economic sphere and specifically in the seafood industry."



That said, WSI Watch 2019 also shows discrimination and inequality still exists in the industry. Globally, half of the workers in the seafood and aquaculture industry are women – most of them work in low skilled, low valued and low paying positions. Gender stereotypes across the industry remain strong. Women are still largely absent from decision making. There are still big inroads to be made.

## Fishermen's Fling at the Irish Skipper Expo

**I**reland's only fishing charity LAST (Lost At Sea Tragedies) have announced a major fundraising event to coincide with the Irish Skipper Show being held in Limerick on 13th & 14th March 2020.

"The Fishermen's Fling" is a Charity Gala Evening in the Castletroy Park Hotel on 13th March, with 100 per cent of the proceeds going to support the families of Irish fishermen.

Attendees will begin the evening with a Drinks Reception, sponsored by The Skipper, followed by a four-course Celebration of Irish Seafood Dinner, sponsored by Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM), with complimentary wine and a Live band & DJ providing Music & Dancing till the early hours.

Several of Ireland's top seafood suppliers have already committed to donating the best of fish and shellfish from our waters to "The Fishermen's Fling" making it a culinary experience not to miss.

Tickets are for the event are €80pp and are available at [www.eventbrite.ie/e/the-fishermens-fling-tickets-78888851679](http://www.eventbrite.ie/e/the-fishermens-fling-tickets-78888851679).

### LAST's AIMS

Tragedy and inconsolable death are an all too regular occurrence for our seafaring communities.

Whilst the fishermen who brave our Atlantic seas bear the risks with equanimity it is often the bereaved neighbours, friends and, of course, the families who are left to mourn the price that the sea demands from its harvesters. LAST has arisen from such tragedies and its aims are:

To provide support for bereaved communities and fundraise on an ongoing basis to ensure that sufficient funds are available at the instance of a tragedy, i.e. to be able to provide assistance such as media relations, liaison services, counselling, support to search and rescue staff, etc.

- To promote & campaign for the preservation of our fishing heritage
- To provide a structured ready-made vehicle to allow bereaved communities to support their neighbours at their time of need, firstly at the time of the event itself and thereafter in organising fundraising
- To actively promote safety at sea for our fishing men and women

## Atlantic Arc Commission adopts Political Declaration on Brexit and Fisheries

**O**n Thursday November 14th, on the occasion of the 30th General Assembly of the Atlantic Arc Commission (AAC), regions of the Atlantic Arc adopted a Political Declaration on Brexit and Fisheries, aimed at setting down principles and key messages that should form a baseline for the forthcoming negotiations between the EU and the UK on a post-Brexit fisheries agreement.

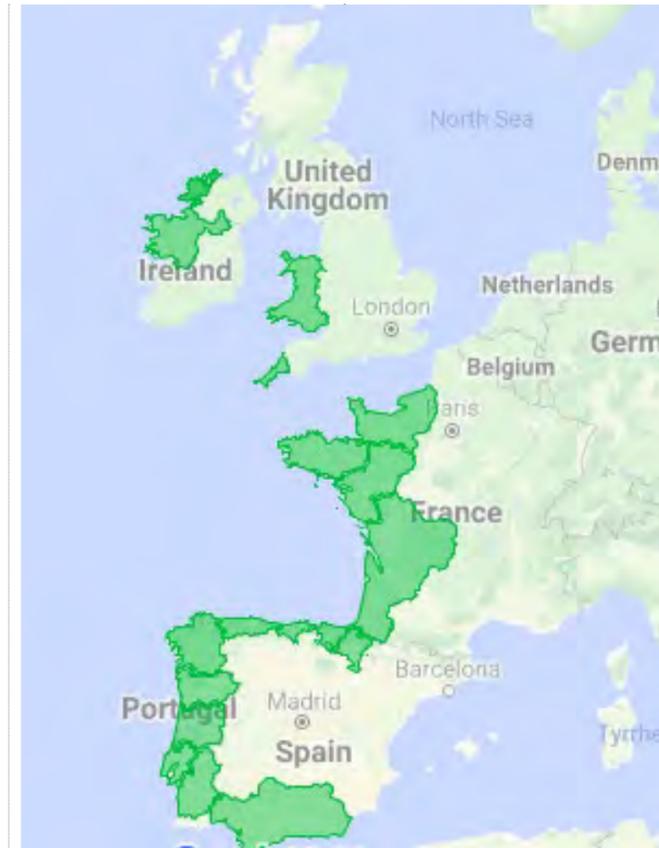
The declaration urges negotiators to aim for the highest recognised standards for the preservation of natural ecosystems, and sustainable fisheries economies and invites the UK Government to provide clarity on the future direction of the international aspects of British fisheries policy. The regions also call for a flexible transition period and request flexibility from the European Institutions in a context of uncertainty.

Regional Minister for Maritime Affairs of the Government of Galicia Rosa Quintana said: "The uncertainties that derive from Brexit are not only worrisome for fisheries activities, but also for regional supply chains and consumers, which depend on market stability and high sanitary standards."

Vice-President of Pays de la Loire Region Vanessa Charbonneau said: "The fisheries sector faces increased social and economic challenges, in the context of immediate and long term Brexit uncertainties, particularly in implementing the landing obligation. In this sense, we call for the development of sustainable and more flexible approaches within the Common Fisheries Policy to respond."

The declaration calls on the UK government and the EU Institutions to involve closely the regions, devolved governments and local authorities in the creation of mechanisms to support coastal communities to mitigate the impacts of Brexit.

The Declaration states: "Given the disadvantages peripheral regions already



Map of Atlantic Arc Commission members

face, the members of the Atlantic Arc Commission made the reasonable request to be fully included in the discussions on the future EU-UK governance of the economically vital fisheries sector."

The declaration also underlines the existence of the Atlantic Strategy, which allows for third country participation, as a tool for governance and dialogue between national and regional Atlantic authorities, and calls for strengthening its fisheries relations.

Alongside this, the regions have appealed to European and British authorities to reflect on the desired fishing model and the risk of the decline of small-scale fishing. And, while welcoming the contingency measures that have already been put in place, suggest reallocating unused European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

resources to Brexit mitigation actions could be explored.

The declaration also cautions EMFF emergency stoppages of activity are not ideal, leading to a potential imbalance in markets and a possible exit of vessels from fleets. Thus, they recommend an additional complementary budgetary mechanism dedicated to addressing both the immediate and longer-term impacts of Brexit.

The Atlantic Arc Commission is one of the six Geographical Commissions in the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe. Established in 1989, it covers five states – Ireland, United Kingdom, France, Spain and Portugal). With some 60 million inhabitants, it represents 12% of the European population.



## NEWS in brief

SeaQuest's Brian Leslie shortlisted for EY Entrepreneur of the Year

Brian Leslie, SeaQuest, is among 24 finalists shortlisted for EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2019. Finalists were in Dublin to battle it out for the coveted title on Thursday 21st November, the day *The Skipper* went to print.

Brian, who studied mechanical engineering at DIT, is involved in product design, sales, and future planning at Seaquest, where he is also company director. Established in 1986 by his father Bert, Seaquest is today one of the leading companies in the design and manufacture of fish pumps and hydraulic systems for fishing vessels.

This year's finalists were shortlisted from more than 120 nominations. Brian is a finalist in the International category.

Best of luck Brian from all at *The Skipper!*

Fishermen on Lough Foyle clash with Irish Water

Fishermen this month once again butted heads with Irish Water on Lough Foyle. The fishermen say they were being obstructed by the activities of Irish Water, who are carrying out investigations works for a sewage discharge pipe.

They also say the body has not displayed a willingness to consult with them in relation to the works and that they are ready to mobilise if more vessels come into the area.

In August, site investigations by Irish Water were postponed after locals and fishermen said they would block works, amid concerns relating to the impact it would have on oyster beds. Local opposition to plans to pump raw sewage into the estuary has been ongoing since 1989.

If only?

Last month, the Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine, Michael Creed welcomed the agreement of the European Investment Fund (EIF) and the Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (SBCI) to an increase in the amount of funding available to farmers under the Future Growth Loan Scheme (FGLS) of up to €120million.

Minister Creed said, "There has been a high level of interest by farmers and therefore I decided to request the increase to ensure there would be no availability issues for primary agriculture. This agreement with the EIF and the SBCI doubles the amount available to farmers to €120million. This is a long-awaited source of finance for young and new entrant farmers, especially the cohort who do not have high levels of security. It will also serve smaller-scale farmers, who often do not have the leverage to negotiate for more favourable terms with their banking institution".

On hearing the news, fishermen in the South West, expressing sentiments shared right around the coast, were quick to point out what a great Minister we have for farmers. If only we had a man like him fighting for our fishermen, they said!



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**PHOTO OF THE MONTH** IN ASSOCIATION WITH **GUY COTTEN** **SNG SWAN NET GUNDRY**

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Send in your best fishing related photo and you could win a Neptune 50 N Bouyancy Aid by Guy Cotten plus the chance to win overnight accommodation at one of the Skipper Expos.

The subject of the picture must be related to the Fishing Industry (your vessel, your catch, a stormy day at sea...etc). Each month, the best photo will be published in The Skipper and the winner will receive a prize, courtesy of Swan Net Gundry Ltd and Guy Cotten. Images sent in may also be used in other areas of the magazine if suitable.

cameras out, and send us your hi-res photos by email to [editorial@maramedia.ie](mailto:editorial@maramedia.ie) and don't forget to mention your name and details, as well as a brief description of the scene depicted. The photos must be taken by the person sending it to us, and it is understood that they are free of copyrights.

**PHOTO THE MONTH WINNER: PIERCE O'DRISCOLL, SCHULL.**  
**LEGENDARY FISHERMAN PADDY MCCARTHY, ROSSBRIN COVE, SCHULL, HAULING HIS SHRIMP POTS IN ROARING WATER BAY IN HIS PUNT ELMA BRIDGET.**

**THE MONTHLY PRIZE**

The winner will receive a Sotra Fleece by **GUY COTTEN**

PLEASE NOTE: The Skipper reserves the right to use your images for future use and possible publication.

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**The closing date for entries this month is the 06th DECEMBER 2019.**

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# The Archives - DECEMBER 1981

PAGE 24 THE IRISH SKIPPER DECEMBER 1981

## MAINLY PORTS AND PEOPLE

By Dan Leno

### Our boats should tackle the tuna

The recent catches of tuna made by Irish trawlers while working on other species suggests once again that it would be possible to start an Irish tuna fishery.

Michael Flannery's Maid of Nazareth caught three large fish in a short space of time in Dingle Bay, showing that this area seems to be nearest to the stocks of these.

The tuna shoal in great numbers but are fast movers, so it is likely that they are strictly seasonal visitors to Irish waters. Perhaps our French neighbours to the south-east could help with information that could lead to profitable work for some underpowered 60-foot trawlers now having lean times.

and sufferers of heart disease. Tests have been carried out in Japan and New Zealand and it is thought that the substance may help to reduce the cholesterol level and prevent heart attacks.

Think its a cold winter? Well, this is how they get it in Larvia in December, when the ice has to be broken up to allow the trawlers to land. Incidentally, the whole port, which is near Riga, is run by the fishermen's collective. That large building in the background is its sports club,

### WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

It pays to know what's happening in the fishing industry if you're involved. That's why you should have THE IRISH SKIPPER posted to you each month.

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### Riding through rough times

Maybe the fishing has not got so bad with you that you're forced to take up the pursuits of Dick Brownell, a part-time fisherman and general knock-about.

The picture shows Dick standing on the back of a killer whale in a marine circus in California while the crowd wait for him to fall and be chewed up.

These animals are scarce in north Atlantic waters, but a financially troubled marine zoo in Iceland has been given Government permission to catch and export eight of them this winter as a means of easing the money shortage.

Pity they do not frequent Irish waters, as part of their diet is seals, which they can even snatch off rocks.

### Oysters good for arteries

Medical research is discovering more and more every year about the curative properties of sea animals. It's common knowledge that fish fat is low in cholesterol, but certain types of sea organisms are of special value. A doctor tells me that the latest discovery has been made in oysters in New Zealand.

A substance called Oysterone has been developed from Pacific oysters which can be used in the treatment of diabetes

### Cabhlach Gaelach an ea?

SEVEN fishermen told Bantry Circuit Court last month that the reason they would not let the navy board their half-deckers off Cape Clear was because the navy could not conduct its business through Irish.

But that did not impress Judge S. MacD. Fawsitt, who affirmed, on appeal, a conviction and £250 fine imposed in the District Court on Joseph Whoorley of Long Island for obstructing a fishery officer in the exercise of his duty.

Inspector Ea monn Good of Dublin Fishery Board said that while on board the naval vessel, L. E. Fola, he decided to inspect a number of boats at sea. He and other officers inspected two boats, but when he went to board the Sarah Louise he was prevented from doing so by men with sticks and boathooks. He said that all the boats had gathered together.

An appeal by the defendant against a conviction of possessing an illegal mono-filament net was successful.

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1970 J & G Forbes & Co Ltd, Sandhaven built, "Vervine" BA842 towing north of the Isle of Mull for scallops. Image: Charlie Umphray



Celtic Dawn II K76 in Whitby last October. Image: Mick Bayes Jr.



The arrival of Gregory Conneely Jnr's new boat Tempo at Cill Rónáin earlier this autumn. Image: Michael Muldoon



Connacht Ranger and Róisín Bairbre visiting Kilkeel. Image: Kevin Flannery



Time for a tea break for Rory onboard MFV Boy Rory, after a busy first day at the mackerel. Image: Clifford Wilson

**OUT & ABOUT**  
 GOT A GREAT PHOTO? SEND IT TO THE SKIPPER  
 email it to us at: [editorial@maramedia.ie](mailto:editorial@maramedia.ie)



Fraserburgh at night. Image: Eugene Rutter



"Little Ladies in Seafood" Caoimhe Doyle labelling freshly caught fish from one of the many vessels that land their catch to Kingfisher Fresh Ltd. Image: Michelle O'Neill



Rare Almaco Jack rod caught in November, a mile south of Tory Island. Image from Seamus Doohan



Boy Rory BA24 looking good! Image: Clifford Wilson



Fishermen working in Gaza. Image Courtesy of Al Mezan



Aoihb Aine arriving into Magheroarty pier. Photo: Hugh Sweeney



Yasser Eldmergy (Egypt) onboard the Dearbhla with a spider crab hauled in with the prawns in the Porcupine

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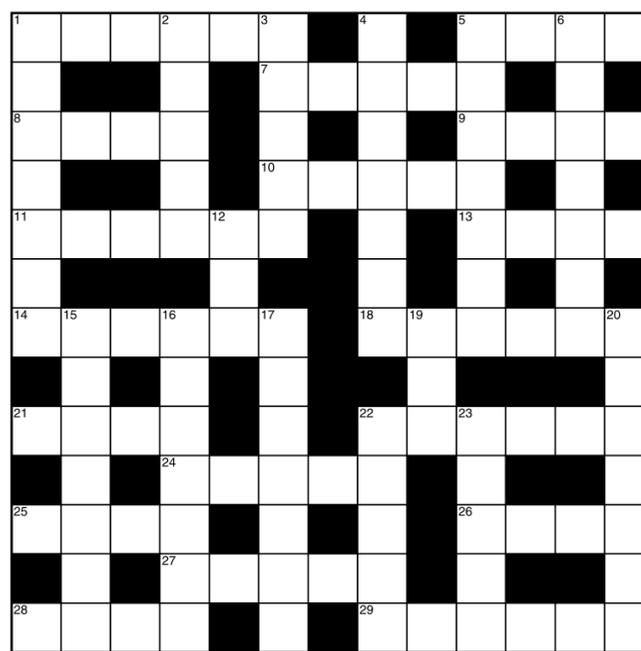
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- Muscle rupture
- Encourages
- Leave, go ...
- Make well
- Mushrooms and toadstools
- Marsupials
- Chessman
- Union Army combatant
- Beauty queen ribbons
- Took to court
- Dejectedly
- Protracted, ... out
- SW Pacific nation
- At what hour?
- Head supporters
- Eagerly expectant
- Leafy fences

**DOWN**

- Earnestly
- Majestic
- Sleeve edges
- Great pains
- Casual tops (1-6)
- Prized shellfish
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- Maltreating
- Teasing
- Improve
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# Second Cohort of Seafood Business Course graduates conferred

The second cohort of graduates of the Higher Diploma (HDip) in Aquabusiness from Wexford Campus of Carlow Institute of Technology were recently conferred at a medal ceremony at the National Opera House in Wexford. Now in its third cycle the course covers business aspects of fishing, aquaculture and processing.

Originally conceived of by Kilmore man John Doyle, the course aims to upskill individuals working in the seafood sector so that they have the education and skills essential to realise a strong and sustainable seafood sector that can meet whatever challenges lie ahead. In 2018, the course received the endorsement of the Irish South and East Fish Producer's Organisation and the Women in Fisheries Network.

This year's cohort included Gary McCoy (Mayo), Abdon Ryan (Cork), Paul Downes (Dublin) and John Hickey (Wexford). At the ceremony, Carol O'Kelly of Redstorm Marketing, Dún Laoghaire, presented the Brendan O'Kelly Memorial Medal—named after her late father who for



Front L-R - Gary McCoy (Mayo), Abdon Ryan (Cork), Dr Janette Davies (Deputy Head of Wexford Campus and Director of Aquabusiness Course) Dr Karen Hennessey (Head of Wexford Campus), Paul Downes (Dublin) and John Hickey (Wexford) Back L-R - Patricia and John Power, John Doyle, Malachy Murrin, Dr Joseph Collins (Head of Life-long Learning, Carlow Institute of Technology), Dr Clare Power, Dr Patricia Mulcahy (President of Carlow Institute of Technology), Frances Cross, Aidan Mahon, David Denieffe (Registrar Carlow Institute of Technology), Brian O'Loan, Carol O'Kelly and Dick Bates.

many years was Chairman and Chief Executive of BIM—to this year's recipient, Mr Abdon Ryan of Marine Harvest/Mowi, West Cork. Malachy Murrin of Swan Net Gundry, Killybegs, presented the Joey Murrin Memorial Medal, named after his late father Joey Murrin, who for many years was head of Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation and a national fishing leader to this year's recipient, Mr John Hickey of BIM, Wexford.

Developed in partnership with BIM the part-time Higher Diploma in Aquabusiness offers modules,

all with a focus on the seafood sector, in business environment (economics), strategic and innovation management, finance, marketing and law. For the first time this year, the course modules can be done over more than one academic year and the five modules are also available as individual Certificates at level 8. Currently, the HDip Aquabusiness is the only dedicated post-graduate course on business aspects of seafood. It is hoped, however, that in time an undergraduate degree course in seafood business will also be offered at the Wexford Campus.

There are nine students enrolled on the HDip for the third year (2019-2020), with three more signed up for Certificates, so far. Half of these are from fishing.

Although the HDip started in September interested candidates can sign up for modules on an ongoing basis. Financial management and planning runs from 10th January next; law and regulation from 14th February and business environment from 20th March. Candidates from the sector are eligible for an EMFF grant administered by BIM of 50% of course fee and a daily attendance allowance.

For further information contact Brian O'Loan of BIM at: [aquabus@bim.ie](mailto:aquabus@bim.ie) Tel: 087 2626578 or Dr Janette Davies, Deputy Head, Wexford Campus of Institute of Technology Carlow, at: [janette.davies@itcarlow.ie](mailto:janette.davies@itcarlow.ie) Tel: 053 9185808.



Abdon Ryan (Marine Harvest - Cork) receiving the Brendan O'Kelly Memorial Medal from Carol O'Kelly



John Hickey (BIM - Wexford) receiving the Joey Murrin Memorial Medal from Malachy Murrin



Carol O'Kelly, Abdon Ryan (recipient of Brendan O'Kelly Memorial Medal), John Hickey (recipient of Joey Murrin Memorial Medal) and Malachy Murrin

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