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END OF AN ERA

Fishing community mourns one of Ireland's great campaigners. See pages 4-5



DONAL DAN O'DRISCOLL. IMAGE: NIALL DUFFY

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Castletownbere Harbour. Image: Niall Duffy

What future for Ireland's fishing industry?

By Lia ní Aodha

Speak to a fisheries economist for any length of time and it won't be long before he or she informs you that fishermen have the highest discount rate (i.e. a high propensity for discounting future costs in favour of short term gains) of all professions.

Without doubt, many—including those who fish—would disagree. Even if fishermen were for some reason natural short termists, many would also agree there are surely few if any activities that would give electoral politics a run for its money in terms of discount rates, which do rather naturally only run as far as the next election (or maybe, in this case, the last).

Over the past month, a rising air of discontent has been palpable across large segments of the industry regarding the handling, at national level, of the question of supports for the industry in the face of the coronavirus crisis. For some, the question largely remains theoretical. What supports would be available if vessels were to tie up? For others, the question is much more immediate and relates to a reality they are already living.

Under the most recent set of targeted supports for the sector, implemented in Europe over the past month, European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) rules now allow for compensation to fishermen

and women for the temporary cessation of fishing activities. The measures also allow for financial compensation to aquaculture farmers and processing enterprises, and support to producer organisations for the storage of fishery and aquaculture products.

The measures have been welcomed by the Chief Executive of the Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation (KFO), Seán O'Donoghue who said the combination of simultaneous challenges around vessels being tied-up as well as seismic difficulties around the market price collapse and lack of cold storage for products has created the perfect, horrendous storm for the fisheries sector.

At the same time, he emphasised, additional financial supports would be needed, to complement these measures.

We must be clear he said, the measures merely allow flexibility in reassigning and transferring unused funds which have already been ringfenced under the EMFF.

Despite the measures that have been implemented, the Minister has, thus far, indicated he is not considering as a priority reassigning EU funds to allow Irish fishermen or women to tie up. The funding is just not there they say. Storage aid is instead being offered as a support measure, even though large segments of the industry, including the culture sector, have deemed the Minister's preferred one-size-fits-all approach highly unsuitable.

Speaking to *The Skipper*, Chairman of the Irish Fishermen's Organisation (IFO), Ebbie Sheehan highlighted: "The amount of fish that's in storage, by the time this pandemic is over some of that fish will be nine or ten months old. And this will have to be sold first. So even if the boats started back again in six months' time, fishing to full capacity, there won't be a market for the fish."

Discussing the issue more broadly, considering already existing issues with markets across the continent, the IFO Chair concluded, "Down the line I see very very serious consequences facing the industry."

Comprising around 80 per cent of the catching sector, large swathes of the inshore sector—many of whom have been tied up now with almost two months—would, in fact, one way or another, not be eligible for storage aid, even if it was suitable to their needs.

A joint submission made to the Department by the National Inshore Fisheries Forum (NIFF), National Inshore Fishermen's Association and Organisation (NIFA & NIFO) in March highlighted "a suite of measures" would be required to help as many inshore businesses as possible to survive economically the challenges of the next few months.

A further submission made last month, in anticipation of the adoption of the Commission's most recent set of proposals states the majority of the inshore

fleet remain tied up due to a lack of viable markets, and highlights a core problem for the sector is an inability to continue fishing at zero profitability or to meet fixed costs.

In light of the EU's recent measures, the inshore representative organisations have called for a temporary cessation of fishing scheme. "We now see no other short term viable solution to stabilise the deepening crisis in the sector," they say. "It is now required if many Inshore fishing enterprises are to remain intact in order to return to fishing once markets allow."

Why the Minister has homed in on storage aid over a tie-up scheme, both of which would be drawn from the same funds, is difficult to fathom. Queried on the availability of EMFF funds for supports, the Department states the €239 million fund "is expected to be fully invested by the end of the programming period."

All funds, they highlight, have been allocated to various funding areas. Approved by a Monitoring Committee, any change to those, they say, requires the agreement of that committee, before going on to state the rate of funds committed through grant offers is high, and with the schemes still open for applications, this continues to increase!

"In light of the significant impacts of the Covid-19 Pandemic on our seafood industry, Minister Creed is actively reviewing all funding allocations, including allocations for all projects and events that have already been cancelled or postponed, to determine the scope for reallocation of funds for Covid-19 mitigation."

Difficult to fathom also is why, almost two months since the Commission first announced an intention that some of the most targeted measures for the fishing industry would come from existing EMFF packages, it has taken the Department this long to go searching for those figures.

Though no concrete figures have as of yet been forthcoming, according to the Department's consultation document on the next Operational Programme, published earlier this year (p.4): "By the end of 2019, approximately 80% of the Programme funds were committed through grant offers."

Which would, perhaps, lead one to the conclusion that at the end of last year, with €191.2 of €239 million euro spent, there is potentially a pot of €47.8

million euro lying in a cupboard somewhere unspent.

Nonetheless, and despite widespread calls to adopt a broader approach, the Minister has thus far maintained his stance with silence.

In response, Sinn Féin Spokesperson for the Marine Brian Stanley TD has called on the Minister to investigate all possible avenues and flexibilities offered by the EU to give fleets financial relief.

Green Party MEP for Ireland South Grace O'Sullivan, Ireland's only sitting member on the European Parliament's PECH Committee, has similarly urged the Minister to take immediate action to implement supports, saying Europe has been "proactive" but now "the ball is in the Minister's court."

Stating the Minister's stance makes no sense, Fianna Fáil Cork South West TD Christopher O'Sullivan, has said the Minister must "give our fishermen the financial room to tie up some of their boats, and not saturate the market with fish no-one is buying."

Alongside obvious social gains in terms of supporting an industry that has been exceptionally hard hit by the pandemic, according to the TD, there would be big conservation wins from allowing a small portion of the fleet tie up during the next few weeks, echoing sentiments that have been expressed by fishermen and women around the coast, who highlight that the best place to store fish is in the sea.

Instead, fishermen and women around the coast look on in both disbelief and confusion, and under a great deal of pressure trying to keep their businesses afloat, as their neighbouring colleagues both within, and almost outside the EU implement much-needed support measures. Meanwhile, here they are told to continue to fish and keep supply chains open for rock bottom prices and promise of room in a freezer. (For some.)

Last month, the sad passing of Donal Dan O'Driscoll, many would agree, signalled the end of an era – one in which the development of and fight for Ireland's fishing industry was driven by a number of avid campaigners and champions from within the industry. Indeed, in many respects, the current moment appears to signify a new era across all manner of fronts. And as with the last, what kind of era that will be for Ireland's fishermen and women will be down to strong industry representation.

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DONAL DAN O'DRISCOLL 1933-2020

Longtime fisherman and tireless campaigner for the industry

By Lia ní Aodha



The West Cork fishing community were left mourning last month, on news of the passing of longtime fisherman and fishing representative Donal Dan O'Driscoll, who died in Castletownbere Community Hospital on April 24th, at the age of 86, after a brief illness. With a fishing career that spanned more than forty years, Donal was a gifted fisherman, adept at catching fish. Speaking

to *The Skipper* one fisherman West recalled that in his day Donal would catch herrings when no one else could. "A true gentleman, but unbelievable at finding and catching fish," he said.

As recorded by Pat Nolan in his interview with Donal some years ago, growing up on Sherkin Island, sons of part-time fisherman Dan O'Driscoll, both Donal and all his brothers went to sea and would prove their fishing credentials to become well-known fishermen right around the coasts of Ireland.

From lobster fishing in a punt to mackerel drift netting in Willie McCarthy's *Mystical Rose*, working his way up to skipper and eventually vessel owner through the 1950s and 60s, Donal would take delivery of a brand new 75ft Norwegian-built wooden vessel, the *Marina*, in August 1971, which he would fish for the best part of the next two decades, trawling and seining.

Two of Donal's sons, Brendan and Liam, would follow their father to sea. And one of his proudest moments came when, in the late 1990s, they bought the polyvalent pelagic vessel, the *Carmona* (S383), which was only last year sold on.

Not just an able fisherman, Donal was a true champion

of the Irish fishing industry. A founding member of the Irish Fishermen's Organisation, Castletownbere Fishermen's Co-op, and what is today the Irish South & West Fish Producer's Organisation (IS&WFPO), Donal was also a founding member of Castletownbere RNLI station.

Tireless campaigners for the Irish industry, Donal, alongside his colleague and friend Tom Hassett, former Secretary of the IS&WFO who sadly passed away last April, never waned in their passion and devotion to securing a fair deal for the industry. Together both worked to draw attention to the sheer volumes of fish being caught by foreign vessels within Irish waters and the millions Ireland was 'free gifting' the EU under the terms of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).

Embarking on a new campaign—Fishing for Justice—at the time of the last review of the CFP, calling for a greater allocation of white fish quota for Ireland, Donal and Tom emphasised the more than €1 billion worth of fish being caught by foreign boats in Irish waters every year, as the Irish fleet struggled to survive.

In 2012, Donal wrote to then Minister for the Marine Simon Coveney regarding the imminent review, cautioning against the devastating impact

the system of transferable quotas proposed by Europe would have on our indigenous industry, and calling for a return to "the 'drawing board' regarding the distribution and management of all fish stocks."

Contributing 14% of the total European waters, for an allocation of between 4 and 5 per cent of demersal stocks and around 12 per cent of pelagic stocks when we joined the then EEC was the first great anomaly of the policy, he said. Flagships were highlighted as another, as was the failure on the part of the Government to consult with the Irish public prior to this big giveaway.

By way of recognition of the centrality of Donal's work within and on behalf of the entire Irish industry and industry in Castletownbere, where he lived and worked, especially, at noon on Monday, April 27th, the port in West Cork fell silent as fishermen paused to pay their respects to Donal as he made his final trip along the pier before his funeral mass.

On account of current guidelines in the context of the coronavirus pandemic, Donal's funeral was private, however, his memorial mass, which was held on Sunday, April 26th, was live-streamed. A celebration of his life will take place at a later date.

An online condolence page

can be signed at <https://bit.ly/2ydtQw1>. The O'Driscoll family have asked *The Skipper* to pass on their gratitude for the outpouring of support and sympathy they have received in this trying time.

They have been overwhelmed by the number of messages of condolence received from fishermen in Ireland, the UK and right across mainland Europe, and were particularly moved by the guard of honour by fishermen in Castletownbere on Donal's last trip around the pier. A mass will be offered by the family in gratitude for all those who have supported them.

The Skipper would also like to extend our deepest sympathies and condolences to Donal's family, extended family, and friends around the coast.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis



Fishermen pay their respects as Donal makes his last trip around the pier. (Image: Niall Duffy).

Donal dedicated his whole life to the fishing industry

On behalf of the Irish Fishermen's Organisation (IFO), we would like to offer our sincere condolences to the O'Driscoll family. A long-respected member of the fishing community, Donal was one of the founding members of the IFO. He was also one of the founding members of Castletownbere Fishermen's Co-Op, and latterly one of the founding members of the Irish South and West Fishermen's Organisation.

A considerable time ago now, both he and Tom Hassett, who predeceased Donal last year, did an enormous amount of work to raise awareness in the Irish fishing community, and the community at large, of the enormous amount of fish—worth billions of euros each year—that was being taken by our European counterparts from the waters around Ireland.

One of the first to raise the inadequacies of the quota

distribution on which the Common Fisheries Policy is based, Donal did an awful lot for the fishing industry, particularly in raising awareness of the fact that we weren't getting the benefit out of our waters, and of the fact that we had such a small quota in those waters.

A minefield of knowledge, in his years as a skipper he was totally dedicated. Donal, in fact, dedicated his whole life to the fishing industry. He will be

greatly missed.

We in the IFO sincerely appreciate all the good work he did down through the years, particularly concerning the awareness of the inadequacies of our quota system. Adding to that, when this pandemic is over, we will be calling an AGM of the IFO.

I líonta Dé go gcestar sinn

Ebbie Sheehan, IFO Chairman.

A champion of the Irish fishing industry

The South and West members would like to convey to the O'Driscoll family there is a great sadness amongst the fishing industry on the passing of Donal Dan O'Driscoll, but want to assure the community of Ireland's fishing people that this feeling of sadness is overwhelmed by the strong fond memories we have of this great man.

Our admiration and gratitude cannot be fully expressed in the traditional way during these unprecedented times. We as a community must find other ways to express our heartfelt gratitude and respect when we bid farewell, but please take solace knowing those who knew the man will always hold a special place in their hearts for Donal Dan.

Donal will forever be known as one of the most vocal, articulate and valued representatives of Ireland's fishing industry. Known both at home and abroad as Donal "Dan" O'Driscoll, he was also one of the most forward thinking professional businessmen of the industry in our time.

His intellect was evident early on in his long and successful

career. The love he had for his cherished profession as a fisherman was often visible and evident through his tireless championing of the Irish fishing industry, never for his own personal gain but for all who sail our beautiful seas.

History will, of course, show why this man and his vision was at odds with those who implemented a slash and destroy policy. We, since the Industrial Revolution as the human race, have sought to build and modernise the world around us and still seek to build, develop and grow. This is not so, however, for the Irish fishing industry.

The industry has, however, seen from the dedicated work of visionaries such as Donal Dan O'Driscoll, safer, bigger, better vessels that can compete with foreign fleets in our 200 mile EEZ, using technology that continues to develop, not to increase catches but like a surgeon's scalpel fish with precision and catch only the fish you have authorisation to catch.

All through his life Donal

fought for the fishing industry and some of this story is told so well in his interview recorded in Pat Nolan's book, *Following the Shoals: Cornerstones of Modern Irish Fishing*.

We all know of the O'Driscoll brothers, who left the island of Sherkin, to strengthen their businesses and become leaders in the modernisation of our fishing industry. Through their hard work with fellow fishermen they changed the industry into a modern business by uniting together to form a fisherman's co-operative in Castletownbere, which secured for them stable prices, and in turn led to the fleet we see today – new modern vessels in the harbour financed on stable prices and secure markets.

Donal strove to improve the income of crews, and championed the modernising of vessels to make them safer places of work, and helped to secure this welcome development in a short period of time.

Spending decades fighting to bring attention to what remains for Irish fishermen and women to this day a wholly unfair Common

Fisheries Policy, he will be remembered as a champion of the Irish fishing industry.

Part of his legacy to the industry, along with one of his greatest friends Tom Hassett, also sadly no longer with us, is as one of the founders of Castletownbere Fishermen's Co Op, and of The Irish South and West Fisherman's Organisation, what is today The Irish South & West Fish Producers' Organisation (IS&WFPO).

Donal has left us a strong organisation to continue to be a voice for the fishermen and women of the South West and the entire coastline of Ireland. The South and West will continue his unfinished work, to speak for our people in our coastal communities so I finish with a simple thank you Donal, you will never be equalled nor forgotten.

On behalf of the staff, directors and members of the Irish South and West Fish Producers' Organisation may you Rest in Peace "*Fear an Farrage*".

Patrick Murphy, CEO, ISWFPO

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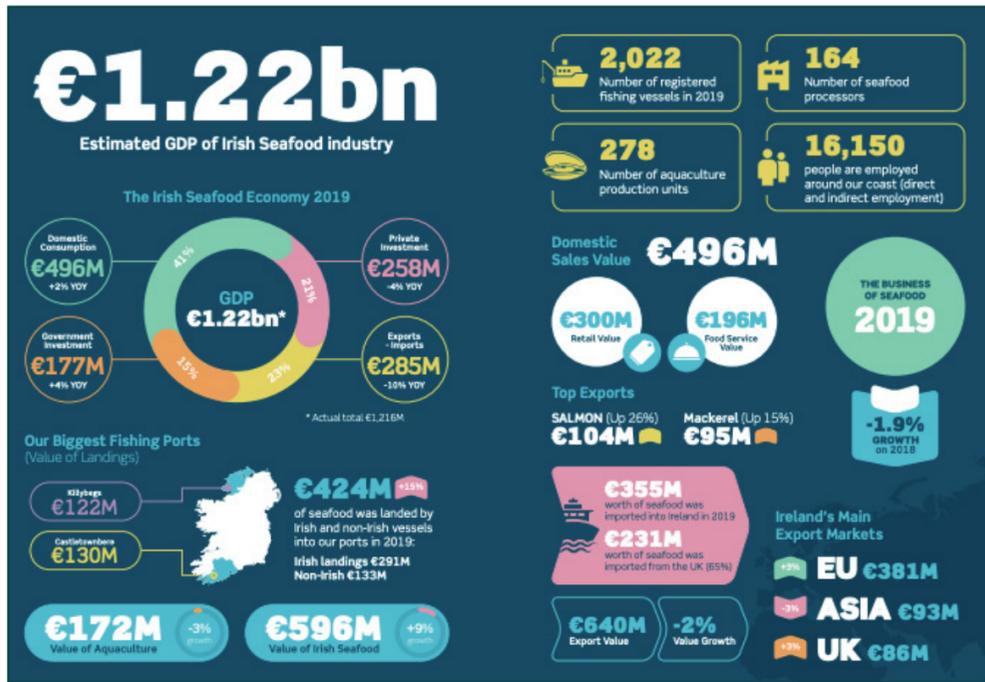
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Snapshot of Ireland's Seafood sector 2019 (Source: BIM)

2019 Business of Seafood Report

Value of landings into Castletownbere surpasses Killybegs

Placing it ahead of Killybegs at €122m, figures from BIM's recently published Business of Seafood Report 2019 indicate the value of landings into Castletownbere last year grew by 40% to a total of €130m. No big year for West Cork fishermen necessarily, accounting for a large part of this growth, landings by foreign vessels into Ireland's premier whitefish port increased by €36m (+48%).

According to the report, uncertainties in the global economy and specific challenges in shellfish and whitefish markets meant Ireland's seafood economy as a whole—valued at €1.22 billion—saw a slight dip (-2%) last year on 2018. With a 4% increase in government support (€177m) and a 2% rise in domestic consumption to €496m, the fundamentals of the sector, however, remain strong, says BIM.

Employment in the sector grew by 2%, meaning there are now more than 16,000 people employed in the seafood industry, with 9,187 of those employed directly – 3,033 in fisheries, 1,948 in aquaculture, and 4,206 in processing.

Despite a decrease in overall volume to 300,000 tonnes (-13%), the value of total seafood production increased by 9% to €596 million, driven largely by a 15% increase in the overall value of wild-caught fish to €424m. Again despite a 13% decrease in landed volumes, broken down, this figure amounts to an increase in values of both Irish and non-Irish landings,

which rose by 8% and 33% respectively.

Boosting the value of Irish landings were increased volumes and prices of key species, with significant increases in the landed values of Dublin Bay prawns, horse mackerel, hake, blue whiting, megrim and haddock. Despite a 20% drop in volumes, strong prices due to quota restrictions saw the landed value of mackerel, Ireland's most valuable wild-caught species, increase by 2%.

On the aquaculture front, overall production increased to 38,000 tonnes (+2%). Overall value, however, fell by 3% to €172 million, driven largely by a dip in salmon production (-7% in terms of value). The farmed shellfish sector, on the other hand, saw a 7% increase to €60m.

In terms of consumption, despite challenges, demand for Irish seafood remains strong. Though, driven by reduced production in key species, there was a 2% reduction in the value of exports to €640m, exports of farmed salmon increased in value by 26%, while exports of mackerel increased by 15% to €95 million. There were also increases in the value of exported Dublin Bay prawns, whelk, albacore tuna, megrim and mussels.

The EU market, valued at €381m (+3%), continues to be Ireland's main market for seafood exports. Strong exports to Asia continued (€93m), though with a slight increase in volume and decrease in value due to difficulties in the Chinese

market for crab – valued at €53m, the species, Ireland's fourth most lucrative export species by value, saw a 14% decrease in volumes exported last year.

Exports to the UK (€86m) remained similarly stable, while the highest growth rate in 2019 was in the emerging Middle East market, to where exports rose significantly by 20% and 23% in volume and value respectively. Conversely, the African market (€40m) saw a big reduction in volume (-38%) and value (-36%) terms.

Salmon, mackerel, Dublin Bay prawns, crab, and horse mackerel were the top exported species in terms of value (in descending order). As many across the fleet feel now only too well, Ireland's main export partners were: France (€147m), UK (€86m), Spain (€64m), Italy (€58m) and China (€43m).

Domestic consumption continued to grow in 2019 by 2%, rising to €496 million, an increase of €10 million compared to 2018, found mainly in the foodservice sector with steady sales leading to marginal growth in the retail sector.

Again, despite a 4% decline in volume, imports rose in value (+6%). Salmon, cod, shrimp/prawns, marine feed ingredients and tuna were the top imported species by value for 2019 (in descending order). Ireland's top import markets comprised the UK (€231m), EU (€86m), Asia (€17m), and the Nordics (€12m).

The full report can be accessed on BIM's website at: <https://bit.ly/2019BusinessofSeafoodReport>

NEWS in brief

Pilot Quota Balancing Policy for Demersal Stocks Delayed

The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Michael Creed has announced the implementation of the Pilot Quota Balancing Policy for Demersal (Whitefish) Stocks will be delayed until June 1st, 2020.

Acknowledging the current economic climate has had a significant impact on the seafood industry and has been particularly challenging for whitefish vessels, the Minister said the delay will allow the fleet extra time to adapt and become familiar with the new system.

The previously technically amended pilot was due to be implemented from January 1st, with quota balancing statements to issue to licence holders later this month. Statements that do issue for January to May are for information purposes only. A copy of the policy is available on the Department's website: <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/seafood/seafoodpolicy/forms/>.

French Gillnetter Detained off the South West Coast

On April 26th, a French registered vessel was detained by the Irish Naval vessel, *LE George Bernard Shaw* 180 miles west of Mizen Head for alleged logbook offences.

At the time of writing the 32m Spanish owned gillnetter *Miss Jacqueline II*, which fishes out of La Coruna, was currently being escorted by the *LE George Bernard Shaw* to Castletownbere where it will be handed over to An Garda Síochána.

The detention of the French vessel is the fourth such detention by the Naval Service this year.

'Deep concern' about Ireland's ability to monitor fisheries

"Deep concern" has been expressed by the European Commission about Ireland's ability to adequately monitor fishing activity, after the SFFA allegedly stopped physical inspections of landings in some ports, following the introduction of COVID-19 guidelines.

Writing in *The Sunday Times* last month, Lorna Siggins reports a letter from DG Mare's acting Director General, Bernard Friess questioning how, if physical inspections of landings have been reduced due to the virus, Ireland can meet legal obligations to monitor landings.

Stating the Commission recognises the challenges posed by the virus, Friess says also that state authorities are expected to adapt to the new situation with the introduction of necessary measures. Though an intention to continue administrative tasks, cross-checks and vessel monitoring as normal is noted, these, they say, do not substitute for physical controls.

Since receiving the letter, the Department has asked the SFFA for documentation as to how EU obligations in this area are being met.

At the time *The Skipper* went to print, we were awaiting figures from the SFFA on physical inspections in Irish ports.



Plaice survival in the Irish Seine Net Fishery

Estimated 87% survival rate obtained

Dr Ronán Cosgrove
Fisheries Conservation Manager, BIM

Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM), Ireland's Seafood Development Agency, recently completed a plaice survival study in collaboration with Damien Turner and crew on board bottom seine net vessel, *MFV Róise Catriona*. Led by BIM's Martin Oliver, the trial was conducted around 5 hours steaming south of Castletownbere in October 2019. The condition of plaice caught under normal fishing operations was assessed using well established fish vitality/movement and injury assessment protocols.

Most of the plaice were in excellent condition with vigorous body movement. Scale and mucus loss were the predominant injuries. Applying observed plaice survival rates from a Danish seine net study conducted in the Skagerrak inferred a survival estimate of 87% for plaice in the Irish fishery. Directly observed survival rates were not possible in the Irish study due to logistical

constraints but survival rates inferred from other fisheries have previously been used by the European Commission (EC) to grant exemptions from the landing obligation. For example, the Skagerrak study results were used to infer plaice survival rates and grant an exemption in a seine net fishery in the English Channel.

The Irish study results will be used to apply for a survival exemption for seine caught plaice off Ireland's south-west and west coasts where there are risks of choking under the landing obligation due to restrictive plaice quotas of less than 60t in 2020. Given the specialised nature of the fishery, seine net vessels are limited in their options to avoid unwanted plaice capture. They are generally restricted to targeting mixed demersal fish species, and incapable of switching to Nephrops and benefitting from the suite of selective gears available in that fishery. Also, Irish fishing grounds suited to bottom seining are mainly located off the south-west and west coasts so relocation to areas with more quota availability is not an option. A previous Irish application

for a plaice survival exemption for otter trawlers off the south west coast was rejected on the basis that survival of around 40% would not lead to a sufficient reduction in fishing mortality in a depleted stock. While there are no guarantees, the seine net application will hopefully fare better given a substantially higher survival estimate and superior fish condition in seines compared with trawls.

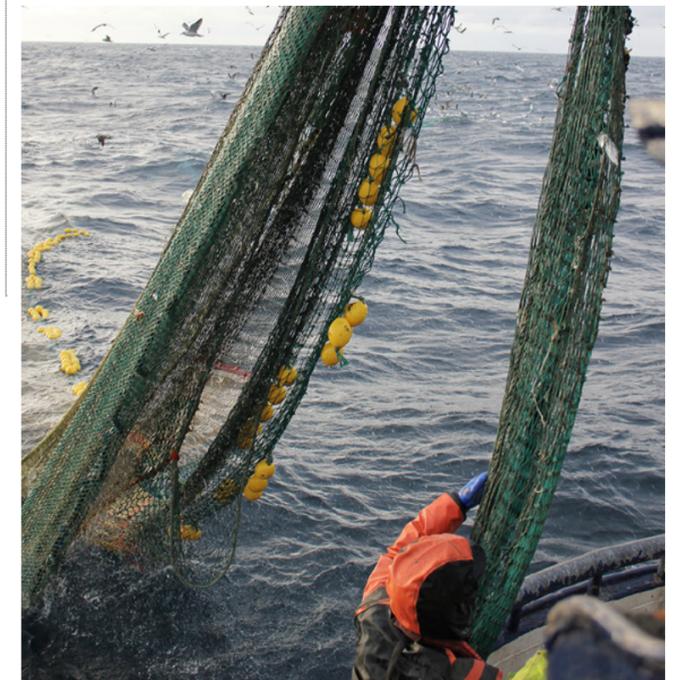
Underwater camera observations have shown that the majority of fish herded by seine ropes enter the belly and codend sections in the closing phase of the hauling operation. Hence, the actual fishing time may be

as short as 15 minutes with fish subject to physical stressors in the codend for much shorter periods compared with trawling. This is corroborated in the Skagerrak study where a substantially higher plaice survival rate of 78% was found in a seine net fishery compared with 44% in a bottom trawl fishery in the same area and time of year off the Danish coast.

BIM would like to thank Damien Turner and the crew of *MFV Róise Catriona* for a productive collaboration, and Shane Murphy for assistance with on board sampling. A full report on this work is available at www.bim.ie/our-publications/fisheries.



Plaice condition assessment



Hauling the seine

Hydraulic/lube oils: Need to make sure it is reliable



Jan Foged

Hydraulic systems are very important to make sure you get your catch hauled. If your hydraulic fails and you can't haul, you don't get paid. So how do you try to maintain the reliability of your hydraulic system? Once again, CJC filtration can help you. To reduce wear and tear, it is important to keep your hydraulic oil, clean, dry and cooled. Unfortunately, I am sure most of you have experienced hydraulic failure when you had to use the hydraulic system. Why did it fail and why now are questions you might have asked yourself. The hydraulic system is very important to fishing

operations and therefore should be dealt with as an extremely important part of the fishing vessel. The engine will bring you out at sea and back home, but your hydraulic will bring in the catch to pay your bills. Therefore, a reliable hydraulic system is essential for all. New oil is not clean, and new oil in an old tank is certainly not clean, says Jan Foged, C.C.JENSEN filtration expert and Technical Advisor / MLA I&II in Ireland.

Keep it clean, dry and cooled.

I can't say this enough times. 70% of all hydraulic failures are due to contamination. Water, particles or varnish are all contamination in the oil that can cause a breakdown. But how do they get into the system? New oil is not clean oil, so some contamination will come from the oil supplied, some will have been built into the tanks from the beginning – it's almost impossible to prevent that. And some will enter over

the years, through breathers or work being done on the system. Some is generated in the system, especially varnish (by-products of oil breaking down, mostly due to high temperatures) but wear and tear happens over the years, which will lead to more wear on the pumps, valves or cylinders.

"These particles accelerate wear and tear, which leads to failure in pressure because of pumps wearing out, or valves no longer opening or closing properly, often resulting in reduced reliability. Water gets in via failing seals on fish pump, coolers or condensation. That water will quickly lead to oil break down, rust and extra wear, because lubrication is no longer there. Most inline filters will not be able to remove the very small particles or the water," says Jan Foged.

Varnish is becoming a bigger and bigger issue for oil – sticky valves is a clear sign of high varnish levels in your oil. Failure to get the right pressure could also be a sign. Because the oil volumes usually are smaller, they are stressed more and often overheated which leads to varnish build-up. And varnish will stick to surfaces inside the system and reduce lubrication, which again will increase the wear. Bad circle of life – you want to be in a good circle of life

What can be done?

Instead of changing chemically



good oil, you just need to maintain it. A lot of oil changes are a waste because the chemical condition of the oil is often still good but just needs to be cleaned or dried. So always take samples of your oil. Understand the report – not just the green, yellow or red square. Look at the comments given and get advice on it if needed. Good sampling is extremely important to a good report, which you can take action on. Poor sampling will lead to wrong maintenance and could cost you a lot of money.

For free advice on your oil report contact Jan Foged on 086 82 71 508.

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IRISH SKIPPER EXPO 2020

Global pandemic leaves Ireland's aquaculture producers facing unprecedented levels of disruption

By Lia ní Aodha

With seafood markets globally reeling from the impact of COVID-19 and measures that have been implemented to slow the spread of the virus, Ireland's aquaculture producers have been left struggling just like other operators in the fishing industry.

Unlike the catching sector, however, the culture sector faces the sector-specific pressure that while the sea may well be the best place to store wild fish the option of leaving farmed fish or shellfish in a pen or on a trestle is less of a promising prospect (for the fish, if not for the people who fish) than a possible repeat of the First World War's 'Great Fishing Experiment'.

In terms of the difficulties now facing the sector, a broad submission made by the Irish Farmers' Association (IFA) to both the Irish Government and the EU Commission on March 30th, says with market closures and disturbances causing unprecedented levels of disruption, Irish aquaculture is experiencing a severe and unexpected impact due to the pandemic.

Among some of the challenges now facing the sector are impediments to carrying out normal production activity, drastically reduced demand, and logistic difficulties in terms of accessing those markets that are open. Spiralling transport costs, particularly for airfreight, are proving exceptionally challenging, they say.

In terms of markets, the IFA highlights COVID-19 has caused major closures and disruptions, with the restaurant and foodservice sector now practically closed across both domestic and European export markets. Much like the catching sector, the culture sector displays a high dependence on the latter.

According to the IFA, over 60 per cent of the decrease in sales of all aquaculture produce is due to market losses in the foodservice industry in the UK and Europe. Some aquaculture producers, says IFA Aquaculture Executive Teresa Morrissey, are now experiencing 40-70 per cent losses in turnover compared with the same period last year.

Early market losses in China and Hong Kong means the Irish oyster industry—valued at €43million and employing some 1,300 people—has been particularly hard hit by the crisis



Oyster trestles. (Image: Séamus Hayes)

since the start of the year, and has already suffered considerable losses.

According to BIM's 2018 'Business of Seafood' report, France—which on March 14th went into lockdown, closing all non-essential businesses, including restaurants and cafés—remains Ireland's largest export market for oysters. In the last number of years, China has accelerated into second place as an export destination for the sector's luxury offering – an offering that now finds itself with little or nowhere to go, or rather nowhere worth going.

Though retail demand has shown signs of increasing for some products—salmon, for instance—switching to retail is not straightforward for niche products like fresh oysters and mussels, leaving the bulk of the almost 2,000 individuals working in the sector, much like those mostly small inshore boats in the catching sector who target shellfish, facing a highly uncertain future, with more challenges looming.

According to the IFA, the knock-on effects coming down the line on account of these impacts, which will mean significant issues regarding stocking density on aquaculture sites due to being unable to harvest, makes stock management the biggest challenge posed by the crisis to the sector. "Growth of the fish and shellfish can be slowed down but not halted. Increased stocking density has an initial impact on fish/shellfish health and welfare but also builds up a potential price collapse risk for once the markets are fully open again," they

highlight.

Echoing this, a letter from Javier Ojeda, Interim General Secretary of the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP) in March to the EU Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries Commissioner, Virginijus Sinkevičius, states the sector has a range of specificities that make it particularly vulnerable to the current situation – among them, the fact that producers work with live animals in captivity and under their responsibility.

Consequently, producers must continue to feed and care for those fish or shellfish regardless of the market's demands (or rather lack thereof), meaning temporary closures and operational stoppages are not feasible options. For similar reasons, driving down operating costs is equally challenging. According to representatives, these specificities are something the European Commission has been slow to grasp, in terms of designing supports for the sector to help mitigate the crisis now unfolding.

Nonetheless, incremental supports, a number centred on amendments and the addition of flexibilities to the rules of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), have been forthcoming (for both catching and culture sectors) at European level. The Commission on March 13th announced the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative, which has since been adopted and came into force on April 1st. March 19th saw the adoption of new State aid rules which enable Member States provide relief to operators through national funding in the

form of grants or tax advantages up to a level of €120,000 per undertaking.

Additional measures announced by the Commission on April 2nd as part of the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative Plus, and since adopted with various amendments, allow for support to producer organisations for the temporary storage of products, and the payment from EMFF funds of financial compensation to aquaculture farmers, among other measures.

Though imperfect in places, by and large, the measures put in place in Europe have been welcomed as much needed steps in the right direction by representatives of the sector here. Despite this, thus far, just like the fishermen, the sector has been left waiting at national level.

In a letter sent to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Michael Creed, dated March 26th, among other measures, IFA President Tim Cullinan called for the redirection and distribution as financial aid for the sector underspends of existing funds, and for the simplification of the administrative procedures to access funds.

Core among a detailed set of proposals on March 30th to the Government and Commission from the IFA, was a call for amendments to the EMFF that would allow for funds to be redirected and distributed as financial aid for the aquaculture industry to help them deal with the crisis.

A letter to the Minister dated March 20th highlights the progress review of the current

EMFF operational programme predicted an underspend of as much as 65 per cent of the 'Sustainable Aquaculture Scheme' by the end of this year, and requests these be redirected and distributed as financial aid to the industry.

Before the adoption of the most recent measures from Europe, many of these calls were prospective. Speaking to *The Skipper* at the end of March, Teresa Morrissey explained that once the Commission had granted the necessary amendments and supports it would be "over to a national battle to try and figure out how we're going to do that."

Now a reality, dissatisfaction has been rising as to the supports that are being offered (or rather not offered), as a consequence of that "battle"—that is the one, which by many accounts, never really began. Minister Creed has come under particular fire for his stance regarding storage aid as the single most viable option for the fisheries sector, in general.

According to the Department, almost all Ireland's EMFF funds have been 'allocated'. Minister Creed, they say, however, is actively reviewing all funding allocations, including allocations for all projects and events that have already been cancelled or postponed, to determine the scope for reallocation of funds for COVID-19 mitigation.

No figures, to date, have been forthcoming. IFA Aquaculture Chairman Michael Mulloy, however, says that due to an existing EMFF underspend there is considerable money available to deal with the crisis.

Referencing the various amendments to the rules of the EMFF have been introduced which allow for the implementation of support measures, Mr Mulloy has stated "The measures allow for financial

compensation to be granted to aquaculture farmers and processing enterprises for the temporary suspension and the reduction of production and sales, or for the additional storage costs".

"These support measures and amendments to the EMFF Regulation now have to be supported at national level. I am calling on Minister Creed to implement the regulatory changes with immediate effect," he said.

To date, IFA Aquaculture has not heard from the Minister, though representatives say the Department have signalled a willingness to listen to alternative proposals, which IFA Aquaculture are currently working on.

In terms of storage aid as a solution worth spending those funds that do exist on, while suitable for some, for the vast majority of the sector is something of a non-solution, says IFA Aquaculture's Teresa Morrissey. All options, she says, need to be explored, and any scheme or financial package, for both fisheries and aquaculture, has to be inclusive, broad and wide-reaching.

Highlighting that we long ago left normal, she says any scheme put in place needs to account for that. "Any scheme we've had before was for the development of or the sustainability or development of aquaculture. Developing the sector. This is for survival. So the criteria can't be the same," she says.

"There has to be a different way of thinking about how we put something together that deals with this current crisis. It's temporary, it's going to be relatively short-lived in the scheme of things. So it has to be quick and easily accessible and it has to apply to the majority and not have criteria in there that would rule out people".

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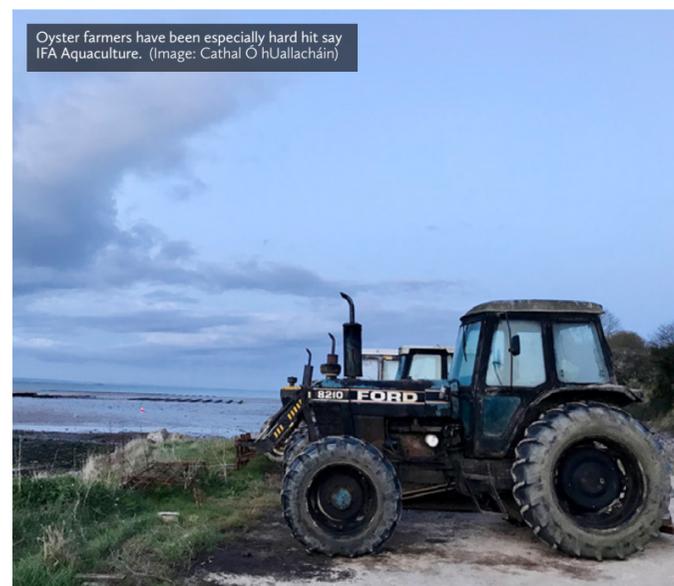
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Oyster farmers have been especially hard hit say IFA Aquaculture. (Image: Cathal O hUallachain)

Bradán: coraghiobach, gruanach, gadluine, maighreán, samhachán...



Manchán recording Pádraigh S Ó Murchú (Pap Murphy) and Uinsíonn Mac Graith

All images courtesy of Manchán Magan

Sea Tamagotchi celebrates endangered maritime words and placenames from coastal regions

By LORNA SIGGINS

ASK anyone the Irish word for salmon, and *bradán* will slip quickly off lips. However, coastal Gaeltachts have many ways of describing the mighty fish, as writer and broadcaster Manchán Magan has found.

Coraghiobach is a male salmon and *gruanach* is a male salmon in springtime, while *gadluine* is a salmon after spawning. On a recent tour of the west coast, he also learned that *liachóg* or *colgán* is a cross between a salmon and a trout, and *maighreán* is a small salmon.

There's more – *samhachán* is a landlocked salmon or brown trout, spending its life in a tidal estuary. And *chuasigh* is a term describing how a salmon makes hollows in the sand of river banks to spawn.

When Magan began exploring

other Irish terms, his discovery had echoes of the title of a Kate Bush song and album. Ever since Franz Boas claimed the Inuit had 50 words for snow in a 1911 Dictionary of American Languages, there has been a debate among linguistic experts as to whether it is reality or myth.

As Magan learned, the Irish equivalent might be the many different ways of describing rocks and stones. For a start, *Púntán* is a round heavy stone, *béillic* is a flat stone with cavity underneath, and *ailce* is a large and immovable boulder. Then there's *méaróg*, as in a finger-stone, *rothlóir*, a rollable stone, and *iolchloch*, a stone of several virtues. *Baisleac* is a flat stone beside a well or stream used for washing clothes.

Magan began his quest as a project for Galway 2020's European Capital of Culture. Named "Sea Tamagotchi", the project aims to

celebrate endangered maritime words and placenames in the coastal regions of Galway, Mayo, Sligo, Donegal, Scotland's Isle of Lewis and Isle of Skye for a "*foclóir farrage*".

He chose the title "tamagotchi"—a handheld digital pet—for a particular reason.

"I want to encourage people to keep these words alive, nurturing them in a daily routine where they become second nature again," he says.

"I am not an etymologist or any sort of expert on word origins, or an academic," he emphasises.

He is also well aware that he is not breaking new ground. There are 3,500 maritime terms as Gaeilge in a *Foclóir Seoltóireachta* or Dictionary of Sailing published by An Gúm in 2008.

He has been inspired by experts like cartographer, mathematician, artist and celebrated writer Tim Robinson, who died in early April during the COVID-19 pandemic. His wife Mairead, who was his collaborator, died two weeks before. The "*fear na meapái*", as he was known on Arainn, expended much shoe-leather recording Irish names for his maps of the Aran islands and Connemara, published by Folding Landscapes and his two-volume series, *Stones of Aran*.

"I adore the man and what he has done. He had expertise and subtlety, and we really do need to honour him. There are many other people who devoted decades of their life to this kind of work, and they were among people I was keen to talk to," Magan says.

So he looked up Eoghan Ó Chuaráigh in Teelin, Co Donegal and Míci Whiting in Machaire Roarty, both of whom gave him much information. He also recorded words and terms and phrases offered by north Mayo's Pap Murphy in Eachléim and Uinsíonn Mac Graith and Treasa Ní Ghearraigh in An Cheathrú Thaidgh, and by John Twin McNamara on Achill island. He is currently working with

MacGraith and Ní Ghearraigh have undertaken much unsung work to document Irish placenames, recorded in walk guides and maps for the barony of Erris. Their research and publications for Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo include *Logainmneacha agus Oidhreacht Dhùn Chaocháin i mBarúntacht Iorrais, Condae Mhaigh Eo* – The Placenames and Heritage of Dún Chaocháin in the Barony of Erris, County Mayo (2004).

"Fool's Hollow, Thieving Ledge and Speckled cliff" are among English translations of Irish names for north Mayo seascapes which they collected, and which inspired award-winning photographer Amelia Stein to compile work for an exhibition, entitled *Precipice*, in Dublin in 2015.

One Galway man who also recorded Irish names of many individual rocks along the south Connemara shoreline was the late Sean Barrett of Baile an tSagairt in An Spidéal. Barrett, who could make everything from an Aran island crios on a loom to small animal traps, and could age a tree from its rings, was author of the

self-published book, *The Miracles of the Enchanted Island*, which Connemara archaeologist Michael Gibbons has praised as an invaluable piece of oral history.

British writer Robert Macfarlane has rekindled a passionate interest in the landscape through his "word of the day" publication on Twitter. He will often select words from Scots Gaelic and Irish, such as the garden birds he spotted last month – *glasán darach*, the Irish name for the greenfinch, meaning "little green one of the oak tree" and goldfinch, known as *Lasair Choille* or "bright flame of the forest".

On April 16th, Macfarlane's tweet was also familiar here – as in *marram*, which he described as the "spiky grey-gold-green grass of dunes and coastal edges, the wetting roots of which together bind sands, stop shift and drift when the wind rises, when the storm lands".

Magan recognises there is a similar appetite and interest here. "And if Macfarlane tweets even a few of the words we find, wouldn't that be wonderful," he says.

"So I feel like I'm the curator for people who generously give me their lore," he explains.

Galway 2020's international remit meant that Magan had considered travelling beyond Ireland, and Scotland was on his itinerary. He had covered 1700 km when the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions came in. He is currently working with

some audio producers to create interesting sound snippets from the interviews he recorded in Donegal, Mayo and Sligo.

Among the many words he had collected so far which intrigue him are *caibleadh*, which translates as spirit voices heard in the distance at sea on calm nights.

"Pap Murphy in Eachléim told me about it, explaining that it relates to the voices one hears at sea when everything else is quiet. It is a word that may have originated in the Belmullet area," Magan said.

Uathais is also a word used for a sea cove, a lobster's crevice, or a wild beast's lair, while the phrase "*ceist an taibhse*" relates to puzzles put to strange creatures encountered at sea or on land to check if they were evil spirits.

"If you know the right puzzle to set for them you will be safe," he was told.

Phosphorescence on the sea surface or the luminous track of a ship in summer also had its own phrase – "*teine ghealáin*". This is also used for a light emitted from putrid fish or rotten wood.

Then there is the enigmatic "*damhsa na gcoiníní*" or dance of the rabbits – a coastal dance where "one spins so wildly the sand on the floor rises up to cover the furniture", he says.

Before the pandemic restrictions, the aim was to have his work finished for a "grand celebratory gathering in Galway" for the European Day of Languages on September 26th where the "full dictionary of



Eoghan Ó Chuaráigh



John Twin McNamara - Achill

rediscovered words would have been gifted to the world".

"I'm pretty hopeful that the project will be completed," he says, though he may not be able to travel to Scotland.

"It may have to move to digital/online... though I'm still

hopeful that we will be able to fully realise the vision," he says.

In the meantime, he is very keen to hear from readers of *The Skipper* who may have words or phrases or both to offer, and can be contacted on email manchanmagan@gmail.

FOCLÓIR FARRAIGE

Sea Tamagotchi has recorded such phrases as:

- Gormánach** – young seal after shedding white baby-coat.
- Tarrthái** – a sanctuary sheltered spot in near the coast. A marking point to signal you were safe at land again.
- Tabhail** – a safe haven, in behind a rock.
- Coinnic** – a dangerous, churning whirlpool between two strong currents, with sheer sudden drops in the water of up to three metres deep.
- Táfall** – a particular form of calmness between two strong currents, the opposite of *coinnic*, as above.
- Carricle** – a driftwood log gathered in the early morning after a storm, used as a hen's roost
- Sciorthach** – a flat rock standing on its edge, often not fully vertical, but half-sloping.
- Stopóg** – the richest grazing pasture of the shallow, rocky seabed near the shore for crustaceans.
- Péist a' dásbhúidéag** – small lamprey, the tiny fish with camouflage dots on its back. The Irish name literally translates as "the worm of the 12 eyes".
- Rothán** – a hank of fish, also of berries, mushrooms, threaded together

on string or on a stem of grass. It also means a volume of angry words and a loop of hair twisted and plaited, or a runner that moves freely in a groove, or a twisted band of rushes to hold the *tromán* of a spinning wheel

- Míog** – the cry of a plover; a smirk, a smile; a sly look.
- Coire** – surface opening of a blowhole. Vent created in rocks by sea.
- Madagaoithe** – a partial rainbow low in the sky that signifies storms.
- Glasán** – whiting (fish) or coal fish; also watercress; a sort of edible seaweed; oyster-grass or sea-liverwort; also the dawn.

Magan also recorded many names for stones and rocks:

- Béillic** – flat stone with cavity underneath.
- Ailce** – a large immovable stone.
- Méaróg** – a finger-stone.
- Rothlóir** – a rollable stone.
- Iolchloch** – a stone of several virtues.
- Baisleac** – a flat stone beside a well or stream on which women wash and beetle clothes.
- Spiacán** – a sharp stone.
- Púntán** – a round heavy stone.
- Spiothóg** – a little stone.
- Líogar** – a flat light stone for casting, sail, a stone used as a shelf.

- Gallán** – a pillar-stone, supposed to be thrown by giants from the hills.
- Cailleach** – a stone used as an anchor.
- Indéar** – a large stone or rock,
- Ansuiche** – immovable rocks.
- Boilg** – a submerged rock near the shore.
- Maolán** – a coastal stone, revealed at low tide
- Slinn** – a flat stone.
- Lia** – a great or symbolic stone.
- Liagán** – a hand stone. Léag is a precious stone or a jewel.
- Bláith-liag** – a smooth stone.
- Foirneach** – a rolling-stone.
- Dornóg** – a small casting stone.
- Caid** – a binding stone.
- Bóic** – a stone at the back of a hearth.
- Bannat** – a stone used as a cross-bond in a wall.
- Spalla** – a stone in a wall.
- Ailcid** – a strand-stone used in seine-fishing.
- Lomán** – a rock of which the summit only is exposed.
- Cabhas** – stepping stones across a stream.
- Carra** – stones across a causeway.
- Clochrán** – stones across a ford. A large stone can be referred to as a *béillic*, *garbhóg* or *carbball*.
- Reanga** – a long, sharp-backed stone or rock.
- Scealp** – large thin rock.

- Sceir** – a sharp sea-rock.
- Speilg** – a pointed rock.
- Spinnic** – a high, projecting, pointing rock, (usually over a precipice).
- Siorra** – a sharp rock rising nearly to the ocean's surface.
- Scor** – a rock concealed by the sea.
- Duirín** – smooth, rounded stone
- Words for a cormorant:
- Duibhéan** – a cormorant.

The cormorant is also known as: *cailleach dhubh*, *gairg*, *fairrg-éan*, *gairr-fhiach*, *glaimh-fhiach*, *scarbh*, *seagadh*, and *broigheall*. Scots Gaelic words and expressions from South Uist and Eriskay: **Balbh-shruth** – the track of a boat that look like a current. **Dreag** – a light like a star following the course a corpse would take from the sea to graveyard. **Faradh** – litter spread in boats for cattle to be ferried **Gille-doruin** – a small silvery fish, tenacious of life, moving restlessly for a long time after being caught. (Also used to describe a young restless boy.) **Dorn** – human fist, which can be used to gauge how long until sunset, by holding a closed fist perpendicular in line with the sea horizon and the other closed fist on top. Number of fists equals the number of hours.



Míci Whiting - Machaire Roarty

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Discover the importance of

Ireland's marine research vessels, the RV *Celtic Explorer* and RV *Celtic Voyager* in our Oceans of Learning series. Jump on board the RV *Celtic Explorer* and take the 3D virtual tour, view videos, download fact sheets and colouring activities.

Navigate a range of marine topics through the Marine Institute's awareness campaign, Exploring Our Marine. Learn about weather buoys, phytoplankton, deep-sea species and Ireland's ocean economy.

Discover more about our oceans through our colourful series of marine facts, on everything from shipping and seafood to sharks and shipwrecks.

The Marine Institute's Explorers Education Programme also offers lesson plans about the ocean, for teachers, parents and primary school children to use while they are doing their school work from home.

The Marine Institute has developed and supported film and media productions, including



Ireland's marine research vessels, *Celtic Voyager* and *Celtic Explorer*

the documentary series, Ireland's Deep Atlantic. The documentary features in online classroom resources for Junior Cycle students and explores sustainable development, the impact on the environment, the 'Real Map of Ireland' and the importance of our ocean territory. Lesson plans and video clips from the documentary are also available

from the RTE Learn website.

Splash into oceans of learning by visiting the Marine Institute's website <https://www.marine.ie/Home/site-area/areas-activity/education-outreach/education-outreach>.

Follow the Marine Institute on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for regular updates on the learning resources available.

Free explorers fun ocean facts and lesson plans for primary school children at www.explorers.ie

The Marine Institute's Explorers Education Programme's outreach team are sharing their favourite marine facts and lesson plans about the ocean, for teachers, parents and primary school children to use while they are doing their school work from home as part of its "Meet the Explorers Team" online initiative.

"In recognition of International Earth Day celebrated from the beginning of spring (20th March – 22nd April), many of our Explorers

outreach teams are going digital this month sharing their stories, favourite facts and providing free lesson plans to help raise awareness about the ocean and all the life it supports," said Cushla Dromgool-Regan, Education Strategic Manager, Camden Education Trust.

The 'Explorers Meet the Team' will be posting ocean facts on its social media channels and have set up a dedicated page on www.explorers.ie for teachers and parents to download free lesson plans, activities, project ideas and fun facts about the

ocean over the coming weeks.

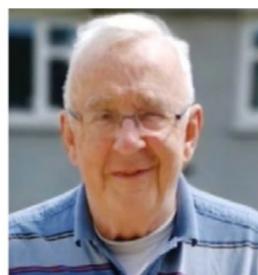
Dr Paul Connolly, CEO of the Marine Institute, welcomed the efforts of the education and outreach teams that work with the Explorers Education Programme during these changing times saying, "With many of our education partners unable to visit schools or have children visit their centres over the coming weeks, we are delighted to support the "Meet the Explorers Team" online initiatives, to help share the importance of learning about the influence our ocean has on us and the influence we have

on the ocean."

Along with other content from the Marine Institute also being shared via its social media channels, the Explorers team are keen to share the children's favourite facts, stories and projects about the ocean online as well. Keep an eye on the Explorers and Marine Institute social media channels for updates, competitions and sharing new stories about the ocean.

<https://www.facebook.com/ExplorersMarineEducation>
<https://twitter.com/explorerseduw>

NORTHERN IRELAND NEWS *By Dick James*



Lenny McLoughlin
(Image: Sea Source/ ANIFPO)

LENNY McLOUGHLIN

The death occurred of Lenny McLoughlin on the 5th of April, 2020 at the Mater Hospital Belfast. Lenny was originally from Whitehaven, Cumbria and found his way to Kilkeel working on the deck of a fishing boat in the early 1960s. There he met his wife Bertha and settled raising a family, working on a succession of fishing boats until he

came ashore in the 1980s to work as storesman in the Kilkeel chandlery store of the Northern Ireland Fish Producers' Organisation (NIFPO) until early March 2020, when due to high risk on account of his age of coronavirus he was furloughed to home.

Lenny was active in the social life of Kilkeel and, as a hobby, was well known as a collector of photographs of fishing boats, old and new, and in doing so became a knowledgeable

historian on the subject.

Lenny will be missed as the face of NIFPO in Kilkeel, where he was always available for a chat and reminisce. Lenny was sadly a victim of coronavirus – that terrible affliction which is impacting our society today. He is succeeded by four daughters: Adele, Deborah, Donna and Wendy, along with many grandchildren.

Lenny RIP

The Fishery

The fishery over the past month has been bedevilled by issues. Some, but not all, relate to the much-blamed coronavirus, with a consequence that a very confused pattern has emerged where it is difficult to resolve the whys and wherefores.

A total closedown of the Nephrops market in North Shields led to the remnants of the fleet left there returning to home ports (if not home waters), and with that came the problems. The market for Nephrops, which was already overloaded, reacted to coronavirus by closure in large parts of the langoustine trade but, in reality, this was on the cards anyway due to overlarge inventories of the product.

Processing closures, some terminal, eventuated and closure of fisheries followed with fleets of prawn boats tied up for marketing reasons. The tails market was in a similar position if not so dire as cold store holdings are a permanent factor in the processing of the scampi derivative. Nonetheless, sections

of the scampi processing capacity closed with large inventories of both raw materials and finished product to give time for a rebalance of the economic realities.

Closure of the "eat out" business as a function of social distancing was not balanced by an increase in supermarket "eat at home" sales. Other sections of the Nephrops trade were not impacted to such an extent and remained open for business, with some fleets taking advantage of the opportunity to fish on whilst others tied up in the hope of Government compensation.

The local fleet were split in two with the Producer Organisations advocating closure and compensation, whilst sections of the market demanded raw product. Two fleets in Co. Down fished on to a tails market which was holding up and to a langoustine market which was less strong but still viable. Returns were fine but as a consequence some abuse and pressure were exerted on the 'remainers' to halt but they continued with some individual

boats defecting as 'leavers' to the carry-on cause.

Meanwhile, the *Maracestina* finished her second trip of the year from the Porcupine Bank and then tied up for an extended Easter break. Compensation in various forms came about but not enough or not universally available enough to redress the losses of the idle fleet.

Fishing as a food-producing activity was given priority activity status with derogations from the lockdown measures adopted for the coronavirus and benefits such as free childcare made available (in theory, if not in practice), with Government policy being that fishing should continue if there was a market demand to fill.

The limited fishery took place generally in the deeper waters mid-channel of the western Irish Sea, with the Clyde closed due to lack of market and more distant waters similarly affected. Meanwhile, the inshore potters had a more difficult time with market closures particularly for brown crab and other export-led product and frequently trips to

sea were taken more to service the deployed gear than to harvest from it.

The Pelagics, with season over in a tie-up mode anyway, were not affected by the pandemic or market issues but the leftover Scots and Irish pelagic fishers seemed able enough to find outlets fairly easily so the impact would probably not have reached that far anyway. Locally, the smaller class of pelagic fisher continued to land Mackerel into Ardglass and other Northern Irish ports for local processing without any evident market restriction.

On the whitefish front, boats fished the haddock ground to fulfil local market needs only on-demand from their outlet. However, the large Brixham based beam trawler *Margaret of Ladram* has been fishing the mid-Irish Sea to the south and east of the Isle of Man all year targeting black sole with consistent and very reasonable catches, and reportedly landing into a good market which for a choice fish in today's circumstances is surprising.

Coronavirus Oddities

The issue of coronavirus on society at large and the fisheries world, in particular, has brought about some interesting and perverse issues, some of which seem logical, but in all it is difficult to keep up with them all.

The Isle of Man was first off the mark with an announcement on the 17th of March that any non-Manx boat entering port in the Isle of Man would be allowed to land their catch, but crew were not allowed to walk on the quays or visit premises such as shops. Anybody breaching this edict would be required to spend 14 days in self-isolation, though it didn't say where! Manx social distancing.

Meanwhile, in Ardglass crew of the Irish pelagic boats landing mackerel to the local factories self-imposed such social distancing, refusing to go ashore. No blockade needed!

The Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority (NIFHA) issued their own edict on the 27th of March to skippers and owners reminding them of their social responsibilities in respect of crew, in particular foreign nationals. Social responsibility

covered basic provisioning and physical and mental health. Crew on boats were to be treated as a household applying social distancing when off the boat and skippers were to notify them of this. (Notices in various languages were posted.) Procedures were to be put in place to ensure all crew receive a good supply of food and beverages including fresh fruit and veg, and this is to be conveyed to NIFHA on a weekly basis.

On the grant and compensation issues, there is some clarity but also some confusion. Self-employed crew are to receive the same compensation as those shore-based i.e. 80% of that received in the previous year based on tax returns. However, this is proving difficult to access – possibly due to a reliance on foreign and contract crew and the habit of crew to shift from boat to boat. This aid will apparently not be available until later in the year (June/July), where the need is clearly here and now! Small business grants seem to fail on the basis that a fishing boat is not considered a premises, presumably with

rateable value?

The Scottish Government were the first to break news of grant compensation to fishing boats announcing £5 million for fishing boats under 12 meters in length mainly deployed in the creel and dive sector with an initial payment of 50% of a two-month average earning promised early on. Obviously, this is of most benefit to the west of Scotland fishers reliant on live shellfish exports to the continent.

On the 3rd of April, Northern Ireland Minister Edwin Poots made a much-anticipated announcement of aid to the Northern Ireland fleet totalling £1.5 million over a 3 month period. Maximum funding is to be £104,000 per "undertaking" being delivered on a monthly basis according to vessel size.

Vessels of overall length:

- 00-10 meters £1050
- 10.01-11.99 meters £1800
- 12.00-14.99 meters £3550
- 15 meters & over £4550

Conditions are:

- Vessel must be NI registered
- Vessel must be active

- normally March-May
- Vessel must have grossed £10,000 in 2019
- Vessels over 28 meters ineligible
- Vessels must be available to fish if there is a market for their product (ie this is not a tie-up scheme)

Needless to say, whilst this scheme has virtues of simplicity and is generous by other UK standards it did not reach the expectations of the fleet, and it also applied to the fleet fishing at the time. On the 11th of April the Board of the Northern Ireland Fish Producers' Organisation (NIFPO) gave notice of its own scheme which would be only for vessels agreeing not to go to sea between the 15th of April and 10th of May, on the basis of a Vessel Capacity Unit (L x B + KW x .45) with a minimum payment of £300 per boat.

Given this would appear to be some kind of tie-up scheme, this would be at odds with the Government scheme which states vessels must be available to fish to any available market should one become available.



UK NEWS

The Filey Few now in danger of extinction

Environmental Agency Consultation: 25,000 signatures in support of Filey fishermen missing

The release of the UK's Environment Agency's (EA) much-anticipated response to a consultation on maintaining the current fishing season for Filey has brought little good news for the fishermen of Filey, who say the EA is putting their "livelihoods at risk".

Determining to cut the current trout netting season by a crucial month, the consultation, say the Filey fishermen, fails to recognise their submission, which included 25,000 signatures from members of the public.

The fishery, which has been at the heart of Filey for over 1,000 years, is now at risk of being lost to the local Yorkshire community that has prized it for generations, they say.

Already struggling with the impacts of COVID-19, which has led to the fishery's temporary closure due to lack of access to markets, the formal consultation response from the EA about the future of the fishery came as a devastating blow to the fishermen in Filey last month.

The EA have deemed the consultation proposal to maintain the fishing season as it stands, which allows fishing for just five months of the year, is not viable, and that fishing in Filey should be further curtailed.

Though the EA claims the overwhelming consensus of consultation respondents was in favour of this measure, local fisherman Rex Harrison notes the response of The Filey Few (the six remaining fishermen in Filey Bay) has not been included.

"We campaigned for two years to keep fishing in Filey – during that time we collected more than

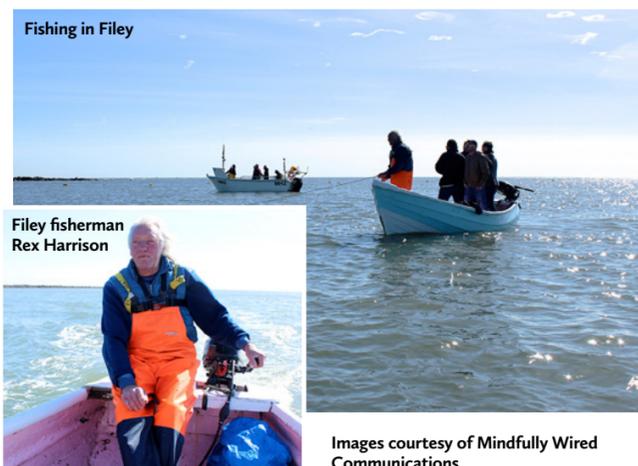
25,000 signatures online and in-person. We submitted those signatures from the Filey fishermen into the consultation process – it's not listed as a response. Public opinion was on our side," the fisherman explained.

Harrison further notes that the phraseology of the consultation is misleading: "The EA have listed this as a consultation to 'extend' the fishing season – this simply isn't true. We were asking not to have our season cut. We've been fighting this battle since 2018, and we don't understand why – our fishery is clean, low-impact and such an important part of the local community."

The five-week consultation was held earlier this year after the Government announced an intention to reduce the fishing season, to help protect salmon stocks which swim with the sea trout and are sometimes unavoidably caught too. The fishermen, however, highlight that gear adaptations over the past years mean that almost all salmon that do end up in their nets can be released alive and unharmed.

Nonetheless, according to an article in the Yorkshire Post in 2018, improvements in selectivity have not been enough to protect the fishermen in the face of a vocal angling lobby which argues the fishermen are impacting stocks in rivers and tributaries they 'rely' on for... sport.

An online petition to protect Filey's fishing heritage which ran in 2018 states, "Some salmon are caught by these small, commercial boats, but many more are caught by anglers – who fish the spawning grounds for the salmon along river beds."



Images courtesy of Mindfully Wired Communications

According to the online petition, which itself garnered almost 20,000 signatures, the average salmon catch by the small, artisanal commercial fleet per year amounted just 157 fish, compared to more than 4,600 sea trout landed.

Corroborating this, at-sea trials held in 2019 by the EA, with the cooperation of local fishermen, to determine whether the fishery has adverse impacts on endangered salmon stocks, indicates that across a given year, log-book data from the local fishermen shows they catch—and make a living from—around 5,000 sea trout per year.

Alongside those sea trout, the trials found that roughly 90 salmon are by-caught each year, the majority of which are released alive within less than a minute of capture (as the nets are constantly attended, and fishermen can quickly identify and release the salmon).

The 2019 EA trials concluded in agreement with the fishermen,

with the consultation document stating the impact of the fishery on salmon stocks was 'low', with modified nets able to successfully target sea trout. During the 2019 trials, only 4 salmon were caught in total, of which three were released in 30 seconds or less and the remaining one was badly damaged by a seal.

With big-city markets currently shut due to the COVID-19 pandemic, fishermen in Filey face a tough year ahead, and this decision further curtails their ability to make a living from this heritage fishery:

"Our best fishing months for sea trout are the Summer months. We need to fish in August—we've shown we don't impact salmon, and we'll provide any data we need to, to help monitor sea trout stocks. My father was a fisherman—none of us have any interest in fishing in a damaging way. We just need enough time on the water to make a living", concluded Rex Harrison.

Fisheries Minister pens letter of thanks to fishing industry

Last month, the UK's recently appointed Fisheries Minister, Victoria Prentis, penned an open letter of thanks to those working in the fishing, seafood and aquaculture industries following the announcement of a new £10 million support fund aimed at mitigating the worst impacts

of the coronavirus crisis on the sector.

Alongside providing details of the recently announced supports for the industry and urging the public to support local fishermen, in the letter the Minister says in these challenging times she would like to pay particular tribute to those who are, where

possible, continuing to work to help feed the nation. "Your work is vital," she says.

Acknowledging that the fishing industry has been particularly hard hit by the coronavirus crisis, in the letter the Minister also promises to "continue to work with industry so fishermen and fisheries

businesses understand how to access this support."

She concludes by stating, "I am immensely grateful for all those in the fishing, seafood and aquaculture industries who continue to operate in these testing times, or who have reduced operations to limit the spread of the disease."

Coronavirus Fisheries Response Fund: £10m announced for English fishermen

Following intense pressure, a £10 million coronavirus support package was announced last month for the fishing industry in England.

As part of that package, more than 1,000 fishing and aquaculture businesses will receive up to £9 million in direct cash grants with another £1 million available to help fishing operators sell their catch locally.

The grants are to assist with the fixed business costs for up to three months for owners of under-24 metre vessels with English fishing licences who last year recorded sales of at least £10,000.

Environment Secretary George Eustice said the scheme "will provide a lifeline for more than 1,000 fishing businesses so they can continue to maintain and operate their boats during this challenging time, which has seen falling prices and lack of demand for fish from the restaurant industry."

"We are continuing to work closely with the fishing and aquaculture industry to ensure that they are supported and can get back to their vital role of providing fish for the table while contributing to the economy of many of our coastal communities," he said.

The support package has been welcomed by fishermen in England. Barrie Deas, Chief

Executive of the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations (NFFO) said: "This package of support from the Government will help English fishermen to keep their boats and businesses.

"Like many industries, the fishing industry has been hit hard by COVID-19. Apart from a few local landings, the shellfish market has evaporated, export markets have collapsed, restaurants and many fish and chip shops have closed, and some supermarkets have closed their fish counters.

"The furlough scheme only helped some fishermen as very few are on PAYE and other government help, like business rate relief, doesn't help boats that are tied up in harbour.

"The help for the self-employed certainly helped many share-fishermen but boats with fixed costs and collapsed markets remain badly exposed.

"We asked the Government for specific support for fishing businesses, they have responded and we appreciate it.

"It is vital now that the promised £10m of assistance flows quickly to help fishing businesses survive and that the government continues to listen and support the industry beyond the immediate crisis."

In a statement in the days following the scheme's

announcement, the NFFO said the grants would "go a considerable way to covering some of the mounting fixed costs faced by fishing businesses".

"It is a top-up/tie-up scheme which will allow those vessels that have been forced to tie-up to resume fishing as soon as it is judged that there are markets to sustain a return to fishing activities and to contribute to the nation's food supply," they said.

The fishing representative organisation highlighted the package's announcement had come as "a huge relief" to fishermen "who had begun to despair that the English fleets had been abandoned."

"In the end persistence paid off," they said.

Nonetheless the scheme—which, according to the NFFO, has "been carefully calibrated to provide the minimum support necessary to keep fishing businesses of different sizes intact"—is not without anomalies, and doesn't include vessels over 24 metres, even though some of these have also been seriously impacted.

"This is particularly true of the scallop sector, one of the fleets most severely affected by the collapse of export markets. Parts of the whitefish fleet also remain exposed and without support," they said.

In this regard, the NFFO say

they will continue talks with Government about providing coverage for the whole of the fleet.

In terms of accessing the supports available under the announced scheme, which is being administered by the UK's Marine Management Organisation (MMO), from Monday, April 20th eligible fishing vessel owners will be contacted directly, by email, in stages.

Tom McCormack, Chief Executive of the MMO said:

"We've continued to stay closely engaged with the fishing industry and are very much aware of the difficulties many fishing businesses have been facing with the downturn in markets for fish and shellfish. We absolutely acknowledge the importance of our fishing industries and share concerns about these current impacts – it is our problem too.

"The data we collect from the fishing industry has proved timely and incredibly valuable in helping to quickly evidence the current situation and to target where financial support is most needed.

"We will be reviewing as we go, and will continue to engage with and listen to industry to ensure we're supporting our fishing industry in the right ways."

Further details on the fund criteria and eligibility can be found at: <https://bit.ly/3cBVAJq>

Wales announces Fisheries Grant to help sector

A new grant to support fishing businesses during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has been announced by the Welsh Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs, Lesley Griffiths.

Fishing has been especially hard hit as exports and domestic markets have shut due to the public health crisis.

Existing support for the wider business sector is often based on factors such as the rateable value of fixed premises, or the amount of members of staff employed – but these often don't apply to fishing businesses.

The new support has been announced by the Welsh Government as a targeted

grant for vessel owning fishing businesses, to ensure they are able to cover their costs during this difficult time.

The new grant will help cover the fixed costs associated with owning a fishing vessel and will be based on the size of vessel owned. The grant will be calculated by vessel size, with a maximum payment of £10,000 to ensure synergies with the Economic Resilience Fund.

The grant will be open to all active seafood businesses with Welsh-licensed vessels and recorded sales of £10,000 or more in 2019, and all eligible will be provided with a one-off payment.

Further details on the application process will be announced shortly. Those eligible should first register online with Rural Payments Wales (RPW). Once applications are open, they may then apply online through RPW.

The Minister said: "We know that COVID-19 and the storms earlier this year have caused significant difficulties for the fisheries sector. Fishing is a hugely important part of the Welsh food and drink sector, and it sustains livelihoods and communities across our coasts.

"But the COVID-19 pandemic has hit exports and internal markets incredibly hard, leading to many in

the sector facing the loss of their livelihoods, and the permanent closure of their businesses. This will be a period of uncertainty for many in the sector, and that's why we want to ensure we could support them as they face unavoidable costs.

"Action is now required to protect the future of the Welsh fishing businesses and the social fabric of our fishing communities which, due to the immediate and devastating impacts on markets, is now under threat. The support provided will help those eligible to cover their costs during this difficult time, and ensure Wales has a competitive fishing sector once this crisis has passed."

SCOTLAND NEWS

Mackerel and herring a great source of Vitamin D during pandemic

With the current COVID-19 restrictions meaning that many people are confined indoors for much of the day, there is an increased likelihood that many in the population are not getting enough vitamin D from sunshine exposure. However, there are some foodstuffs that are good sources of vitamin D – including oily fish such as mackerel and herring.

Robert Duthie, chairman of the Scottish Pelagic Processors' Association said: "Research has shown that both mackerel and herring are good sources of vitamin D, and with the current COVID-19 restrictions confining people indoors for much of the day, it makes sense to ensure that both types of fish form a regular part of our diets."

Both canned and hot smoked mackerel are widely available in food retailers, as well as fresh

fish in season. Herring is also convenient to buy, especially as smoked fish (kippers) or in marinated form.

"Scottish mackerel and herring are sustainably caught, taste great and are inexpensive compared to most other proteins, representing excellent value for money," added Mr Duthie. "Both fish are rich in heart-healthy omega-3 fatty acids and are a great source of essential minerals and vitamins.

"Nutritional experts say we should all aim to eat two portions of fish per week, one of which should be an oil-rich fish such as herring or mackerel. In these times when we are all going to have to tighten our belts, mackerel and herring are the perfect meal choice for taste, our health and our pockets."

(Of course, Irish mackerel and herring are also sustainably caught, healthy and taste great too!)



Oily fish like herring are a great source of Vitamin D

£22.5 million in supports announced for Scottish seafood industry

Mid-month, the Scottish Government announced a further £3.5 million in supports, to assist fishing vessels over 12 metres in length in the face of the coronavirus crisis, bringing the total support figure for the industry up to £22.5 million.

The latest announced scheme will provide capped payments of up to £21,370 per vessel to businesses with an over 12m vessel landing shellfish such as crab, lobster, scallops, and langoustines to help them meet fixed costs such as insurance.

The scheme will also provide up to £42,740 for businesses operating more than one vessel. Amounts will be graduated by fleet segment and length category.

Speaking of the supports, Fisheries Secretary Fergus Ewing said, "I have been working closely with the fishing and aquaculture industry since the global COVID-19 outbreak began, and have listened to calls from businesses who have seen their livelihoods disappear overnight as their markets have shut down in response to vital public health advice.

"This latest funding benefits more than 220 Scottish vessels over 12 metres. Overall, more than 1,000 fishing and aquaculture businesses are now eligible for funding to help them, their crews and staff through this unprecedented period.

"We are using Scottish and UK Government funds to support the unique needs and circumstances of Scotland's economy, particularly to help safeguard livelihoods in coastal and island communities. This package represents the most comprehensive set of measures to support fishing and fish farming anywhere in the UK.

"Support being provided to businesses operating vessels over 12 metres finalises the relief we can offer to the sea fishing and aquaculture sectors to mitigate the economic and social impact of COVID-19 having exhausted current transitional funding streams. Discussions with industry will continue as to the impact on future sector spend.

"I would urge the public to play their

part in supporting these key contributors to Scotland's food success story by buying Scottish seafood and fish if they can."

Elsbeth Macdonald, CEO of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF) welcomed the announcement, highlighting that with lockdowns impacting markets most of the shellfish fleet has been tied up with weeks.

"Fishing businesses are floating businesses, so are not eligible for the Covid Small Business Grants Scheme based on rateable premises," she said.

"We are grateful to Fergus Ewing and Marine Scotland for having regular dialogue with us, listening to industry, and acting quickly to provide support to the fishing industry and wider seafood sector, on which so many of our coastal communities depend."

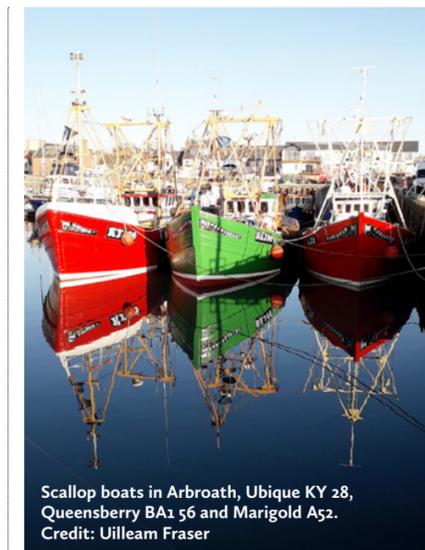
Elaine Whyte, a National Co-ordinator for Communities Inshore Fisheries Alliance, said, "COVID-19 has had a great impact on our fishing communities, closing markets completely and reducing much-relied-upon income for coastal families nationally.

"We've worried greatly about securing some type of emergency assistance for this section of society which had lost the ability to earn a living at sea and provide for their families, many of whom were not eligible for other forms of current support.

"We sincerely thank the Scottish Government for addressing the needs of people who fish for a living, most of whom live in already fragile Scottish coastal communities. The support offered will hopefully help save vulnerable businesses which are the backbone of their villages and towns."

The over 12m fleet support scheme is open to businesses operating active Scottish registered and licensed vessels over 12m in overall length only, where a vessel made a minimum of £20,000 landings in 2019.

Grants will be made on the basis of three months equivalent of recurring fixed costs, excluding elements such as mortgages, interest, depreciation, crew costs and fishing gear repairs or purchases are not included in these costs.



Scallop boats in Arbroath, Ubuque KY 28, Queensberry BA1 56 and Marigold A52. Credit: Uilleam Fraser

In March, an initial package of more than £5 million in financial support was announced for the country's small scale fleet. The SFF had welcomed the funding package for smaller vessels—which included an initial payment of 50% of two months' average earnings to owners of vessels of 12m and under—as a good first step to support the industry as a "much needed development" to an "unprecedented crisis."

Announcing that package after liaising with the country's fishing industry, the Scottish Fisheries Secretary said, "The need for action is immediate." Scottish Government officials, he said, were "working as hard as possible to get this money out of the door as fast as we can."

A £10 million assistance package for processing businesses, announced at the beginning of April, was welcomed by Jimmy Buchan, chief executive of the Scottish Seafood Association (SSA) "as a measure of its intent to support the sector at this time of need."

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The Skipper

Shellfish growers and trout farmers share £3 million in supports

In support of Scotland's aquaculture businesses in the face of the coronavirus crisis, hardship payments of up to £27,000 are being made available by the Scottish Government for around 100 businesses which make a full time living from shellfish growing and trout farming.

Commenting on the supports, Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing said the Scottish Government "was working to protect lives and livelihoods" in the face of the profound impact the virus was having on all aspects of Scottish life.

With reference to aquaculture,

which he highlighted is a thriving part of the Scottish rural economy, he said many in the sector had been left "at risk of financial ruin" by the impacts the pandemic was having on markets.

"Action is required urgently to preserve the future of Scotland's aquaculture sector and the social fabric of our remote and rural communities which is now under threat," he said.

"This package of financial support meets the unique needs and circumstances of Scotland's economy and will provide support for our most vulnerable aquaculture businesses. Payments will be made directly to eligible

shellfish growers and trout farmers as soon as possible."

Chief Executive of the Association of Scottish Shellfish Growers Dr Nick Lake said the "targeted response" would "help shellfish growers maintain farm sites for oyster and mussel production."

"The spring months are vital for maintenance of stock and the collection of wild mussel seed to sustain future years production and it is paramount this work is able to be safely undertaken with experienced staff retained by businesses," he said.

"Financial support at this critical point should ensure

shellfish cultivation businesses are able to continue to deliver high quality shellfish to the markets as soon as conditions improve."

Chief Executive of the British Trout Association Oliver Robinson said the significant disruption to their businesses Scottish trout farmers were experiencing meant they required support to allow them to look after the health and wellbeing of their staff and the welfare of their fish.

"They are greatly encouraged by the support now being offered by Scottish Government," he said.

SHETLAND NEWS By Peter Johnson, Chris Cope and Hans J Marter / www.shetnews.co.uk

Lifeboat and fishing vessel assist *Sedulous* in trouble



Sedulous aground. Image: Chris Brown/Shetland News



Aith Lifeboat

AITH lifeboat was called out in the early hours of 21 March to go to the assistance of a Lerwick registered whitefish trawler with five crew on board that had run aground on a shingle beach near the entrance to Scalloway harbour.

Shetland Coastguard was alerted at just before half past three after the skipper of the 26-metre *Sedulous* had asked for help.

The *Sedulous* was eventually towed off by the

whitefish boat *Radiant Star* on the rising tide and managed to get alongside Scalloway harbour under her own steam by 6.30 am.

Aith lifeboat stood by as a precaution and in case they were needed but the *Sedulous* was undamaged according to Shetland Coastguard.

Aith lifeboat coxswain John Robertson said: "Life-threatening incidents can happen at sea at any time. So it's important that you call for

help when something goes wrong.

"I'd like to thank the crew of the *Radiant Star* for their safe and essential

assistance this morning. Their quick, competent response was an important part of getting *Sedulous* and her crew back to safety."

Difficult balancing act for fish markets

■ **WHITE** fish sales are continuing in Lerwick and Scalloway although some boats have tied up due to the lack of demand for fish.

One fish salesman with agents LHD said that there had been sufficient buyer demand to keep prices reasonable, but they had fallen back after good landings locally and at Peterhead earlier in April.

The following day round whittings had halved again and that had led to a voluntary tie-up of some boats. "That sent a bit of a shock wave through the whole industry. Prices seemed to collapse a fair chunk," said the salesman.

Although some of the bigger processors and factories have shut up shop, there is still a good trade with the smaller fishmongers, he

added. "As long as the buyers have orders to fill, we are happy to run the markets. That could change, but in the meantime we will be continuing the same."

He said that some of the boats that had tied up through the week might be tempted out again if prices come back up. It was a difficult balancing act to achieve price stability.

The opening of the new fish markets in both Lerwick and Scalloway are postponed until the COVID-19 situation becomes clearer.

Brae factory closes with 22 temporary job losses

■ **THE FISH** industry is striving to keep its workforce going as one mussel operation in Brae closed its doors as a result of the collapse in markets.

Scottish Shellfish Marketing Group ceased operations at

the end of March laying off 22 staff with the duration of the shutdown uncertain.

Michael Tait of Shetland Mussels said that the workers were laid-off for a fortnight "initially" owing to the "abrupt" collapse of the restaurant trade.

Tait, who is chairman of Scottish Shellfish Marketing Group (SSMG), said that the company "did not have much option" but to make the temporary layoffs.

He added: "Our Brae factory is completely set up to process mussels and scallops for the food service and restaurant trade.

"The unprecedented COVID-19 control measures have led to the orders from these customers collapsing to nearly zero.

"We have no choice but to cease operations at the Brae plant immediately and will lay off our 22 staff, initially for

two weeks, while we access the government support which has been recently announced.

"SSMG will work hard to get through this difficult time and hopefully get the Brae plant back up and running as soon as possible, but these are very challenging circumstances for us as they are for most people in the country right now. Our thoughts are with our staff and communities as we try to find a way through this situation."

He said that SSMG's factory in Bellshill would remain in operation as its mussel production caters for the retail trade. Its mussels packed in sauce are supplied to supermarkets, whose sales are relatively unaffected.

The group has 19 producer members, the majority based in Shetland. The overall fortunes of the industry would become clearer in time, said Tait.

ICELAND NEWS By Gudjón Einarsson



Fish processing plant in Iceland

Icelandic Fisheries and the Pandemic

Despite the pandemic, the Icelandic fishing fleet and all the major fishing plants have been operating almost uninterrupted. On the marketing side, however, things are more complicated. Fresh fish products account for almost a third of the total export value of seafood from Iceland. Ever since a lockdown took effect in most western European countries in the middle of March, the market for fresh fish products has completely collapsed due to the closing of restaurants and open seafood counters in retail stores.

For Iceland the lockdowns in France and Britain were especially harmful since these countries are the most important buyers of Icelandic fresh fish products. Later the fresh fish market in the United States also came to a halt. On top of that Britain closed all of its fish & chips shops which are large buyers of frozen-at-sea fillets supplied by Iceland.

Switched to frozen products

In response to the collapse of the fresh fish market the Icelandic fishing plants immediately stopped their fresh fish production and instead increased their output of frozen and salted products. The market for frozen seafood has stayed relatively normal during the crisis, at least up until now, and the surplus production of

frozen products can always be stored.

Salt fish market paralysed

Salted fish is also an important part of Iceland's export, the main markets being in Spain and Italy which have been extremely hard hit by the virus. Under normal circumstances the main sales period for salted fish is during the weeks leading up to Easter. This year these countries were under lockdown at that time and the market became paralysed. The Portuguese market, however, remained open.

Prices expected to fall

Fish prices on the Icelandic auction markets remained relatively stable in March as well as export prices of frozen products, but prices are expected to fall in the coming weeks and months. With universal travel restrictions and decreasing buying power of consumers in Europe and North-America due to the economic crisis in the wake of the pandemic, it will take a long time for the restaurant business to recover and for things to get back to normal again.

Outrage due to a law suit

The Icelandic economy will of course suffer greatly as a result of the pandemic

during the coming months and even years. Not only because the fishing industry is facing hard times but mainly because the tourist industry, which has in recent years become the nation's biggest foreign currency earner, has collapsed completely and no one knows when it will recover.

Therefore the general public was outraged when it was recently revealed that a group of major fishing companies had some months ago jointly filed a law suit against the Icelandic state over the allocations of mackerel quotas during the years 2011-2018, demanding the equivalent of 64 million Euros in compensation. From the podium of Parliament Prime Minister Katrin Jakobsdottir expressed her anger and challenged the fishing companies to withdraw the lawsuit. Minister of Finance Bjarni Benediktsson said that he was optimistic the State would win the case, but in the unlikely event that it did not, tax payer money would not be used to pay the damages, but the fishing industry itself would.

A few days later five of the seven companies that filed the lawsuit announced they would waive their claims against the Icelandic state due to the impact COVID-19 would have on the Icelandic treasury. "Now everyone needs to work together," their statement read.

AALSKERE



NEW BOAT

Aalskere. Image: Sean Glackin

NEW ORKNEY TRAWLER ARRIVES HOME

Aalskere crosses North Sea from Denmark

By Craig Taylor

Orkney's brand new state-of-the-art whitefish trawler, *Aalskere*, arrived in Kirkwall for the first time in early April.

The partners in the new *Aalskere* are Iain Harcus, his wife Elizabeth, John Harcus (Iain's father) and the Don Fishing Company, Peterhead.

The vessel was designed by Ove Kristensen from Vestvaerftet in Denmark, who oversaw the hull-building at the Stal-Rem S.A. yard in Poland. The hull

was then taken to Denmark and fitted out at Kynde & Toft in Thyborøn.

The present *Aalskere* was built in 1997 in Poland. She is 34m long and 8.7m wide. The new boat, a stern trawler, is 35.2m long with a beam of 10.5m. The *Aalskere* is skippered by Iain Harcus and William Brown.

Powered by an ABC 6DZC main engine—supplied by the yard themselves—connected to a Hundested gearbox driving a 3,400mm CP propeller, the new *Aalskere* is also fitted with two Cummins auxiliaries.

Wheelhouse electronics were supplied by Woodsons and

Furuno UK. Included among the impressive array of electronics installed by Woodsons is a Seapix 3D multibeam sonar for mapping and detection of fish in real time in 3D on seafloor, a Kaijo KSE310 38Khz split beam echosounder, and a Quad View Video Wall with integrated trackball control.

The previous *Aalskere* was earlier renamed *Gemma Jane*, and re-registered, in preparation for the arrival of the new boat, and is currently on the market for sale.

The new boat, which is insured by Sunderland Marine, will be ready to start fishing once

all the relevant paperwork is completed, said skipper Harcus in early April, who added that the new boat will allow him to fish with a single trawl or twin-rig.

The new *Aalskere* is kitted out with two split net drums and two 34t split trawl winches. The boat's landing crane was supplied by Killybegs' EK Marine. The EKM 2 ton @ 12m deck crane was ordered by Iain at the 2018 Skipper Expo in Aberdeen.

The catch handling system on board was supplied by Boatech. The full gear package was supplied by Jackson Trawls of

Peterhead.

Both new *Aalskere* and *Gemma Jane* made the trip back to Orkney from Thyborøn in Denmark, as the *Gemma Jane* had previously been used to take fishing gear over to the new boat.

The arrival of the vessel came at a time when the UK fishing industry is facing highly challenging times due to the coronavirus crisis, which has seen a huge collapse in demand in the UK and abroad for fish and shellfish.

However, fish markets are still operating, and there is still a depleted domestic retail demand for fish, although much less than normal due to the coronavirus restrictions closing hotels, restaurants and other food outlets.



Iain Harcus, Aalskere Skipper. Image: Craig Taylor



Images supplied by Kynde & Toft

FACT FILE

NAME: MFV AALSKERE K373
SKIPPER: IAIN HARCUS AND WILLIAM BROWN
DESIGN: OVE KRISTENSEN (VESTVÆRFTET APS)
BUILT BY: KYNDE & TOFT
LENGTH: 35.25M
BEAM: 10.5M
ACCOMMODATION: 10
FISHROOM: 2500+ BOXES



KYNDE & TOFT

KYNDE & TOFT WOULD LIKE TO WISH OWNERS, SKIPPER AND CREW OF THE AALSKERE EVERY SUCCESS WITH THEIR NEW VESSEL.



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VESTVÆRFTET

NEWBUILDINGS REPAIR CONSULTANCY

Congratulations to Owners, Skipper and Crew with your new vessel "AALSKERE"

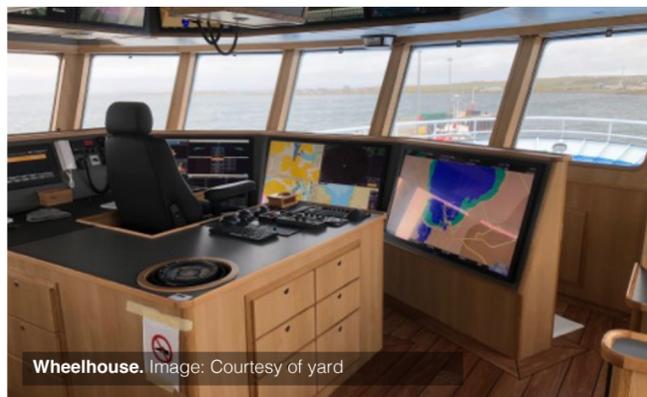


AALSKERE

Nordhavnskej 12, 6960 Hvide Sande, Denmark
Tel: 0045 97 31 33 22
Email: info@vestvaerftet.dk
www.vestvaerftet.dk



Aalskere. Image: Sean Glackin



Wheelhouse. Image: Courtesy of yard



The new Aalskere is arranged for single trawl or twin rigging. Image: Courtesy of yard

Peter Bruce (Patsy) contracted to carry out Resin Decking on new *Aalskere*

Peter Bruce (Patsy) was contracted directly by *Aalskere* owner Iain Harcus to travel to Denmark and install Resin Decking application to the trawl decks and fish handling decks onboard his new build during final refit, while in Thyborøn Harbour.

Many months planning of manpower, materials, delivery, mobilisation, and travel etc. were put in place to ensure PBP was ready to execute the job when called on, so as to ensure the customer's full requirements would be met at short notice during such a project.

Due to the impression the completed works left on the yard, Peter Bruce (Patsy) was requested to return the following month to repeat the same works on another new build for a Danish fly shooter, with owners based also in Thyborøn. Unfortunately, due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and associated travel and working restrictions those works could not proceed.

The week before *Aalskere's* sea trials, the PBP team arrived late on a Friday evening ready for a 6am start on Saturday morning,

working straight through until midnight to complete the 4 layer Rapid Cure Degaflor Resin application to the trawl deck before the weather broke on Sunday. This allowed for works to then proceed on the more weather-protected fish handling deck.

Works commenced again early on Sunday morning, with the team working through the day and night to almost complete the fish handling deck that evening, leaving a final topseal coat application to be applied on Monday morning. Curing within 2 hours meant no disruption to the yard or the crew who were very busy at the time preparing to head out for sea trials.

A very experienced and dedicated team of long-serving employees who take great pride in the installation works they carry out arrived, set up and prepared for the task ahead using their vast experience to deliver the product application. The job requires that they all understand their various tasks working as a team very quickly, as there is no room for error or working delays as each layer needs to be applied efficiently before the fast curing

off of the product.

Both the owners and shipyard were very impressed and satisfied with the efficiency and quality of the works carried out by the PBP team during the visit to Thyborøn.

Peter Bruce (Patsy) would like to thank all his dedicated employees for delivering yet another quality new build project, as well as the owners, crew and the yard for choosing PBP Services to carry out these works, and for all their help and assistance during the project.

Skipper-owner, Iain Harcus said, "We're delighted with the decking. It looks great, is easily cleaned, and will be very durable. The boys did a great job, working around sea trials, very mixed weather and long hours to get the job done quickly and professionally."

PBP is the only approved contractor in the UK for the specialist Lloyd's approved German resin products, and has, along with their distribution partner Degaflor, developed and introduced this specialist application into the fishing industry – working hard together over the past 7 years.

The unique properties of the application allow for the 4 layer system to be applied and cure on the same day if required, with each coating curing in under one and a half hours, allowing for almost immediate foot traffic after application.

The application has elasticity properties to ensure against movement of steel, which also makes it comfortable underfoot for long periods of standing time. With its blended colours of anti-slip quartz suspended throughout the film thickness of the product, it is also very aesthetically pleasing. On top of this, the Resin is extremely hard-wearing, tough and impact-resistant and can be

easily cleaned and maintained.

As well as Lloyd's German Shipping Class Certification, the product also comes with Health and Safety Anti-Slip Testing and Certification, and also Food and Drinks Industry Certification for Safe Production of Factory Foods.

PBP and employees would like to wish Iain and crew every future success with the new vessel. Good health and safe fishing to all on the new *Aalskere*.



Decking before



Decking after

Two new builds from Parkol

Parkol Marine Engineering Ltd's busy yard recently delivered two new builds, *Osprey* and *Alcedo*.

OSPREY

With a length overall of 19m, steel-hulled *Osprey* WK 4 features a transom stern, bulbous bow, soft nose stem and boasts a full-length aluminium shelter deck.

Built for the Holborn Fishing Company to accommodate a crew of 8, the vessel—which has recently started fishing from Scrabster—is arranged for creel fishing, with hauling position located starboard, forward.

Powered by a Mitsubishi S6A3 MPTAW main engine driving a Reintjes gearbox with a 7:1 reduction connected to a 1900mm propeller, the crabber is fitted with a 32,000 litre capacity vivier tank, boasting also a dry hold and refrigerated bait storage onboard.

Below deck, the vessel is subdivided by four watertight bulkheads into: aft accommodation with steering gear, engine room, vivier, hold and forepeak. The main deck has an aft steel galley, mess and washroom casing.



MAIN DIMENSIONS OSPREY WK 4	
LENGTH OVERALL	19.00M
LENGTH REGISTER	16.49M
BREADTH MOULDED	7.00M
DEPTH MOULDED	3.75M

FUEL CAPACITY	12,000 LTRS
FRESH WATER CAPACITY	4,000 LTRS
VIVIER GROSS VOLUME (APPROX.)	32,000 LTRS
TONNAGE	175 TONNES

ALCEDO

Built by Parkol for West Coast Sea Products, with a length overall of 33.75m, moulded breadth of 8.9m and depth of 4.67m, steel-hulled *Alcedo* BA 77 is one of the largest fishing vessels to come out of the yard in Parkol with some time.

Powered by a Mitsubishi S12R MPTAW main engine, driving a Reintjes gearbox connected to a 2750mm propeller, the vessel which was designed by SC McAllister's Ian Paton, features a round bilge, transom stern, bulbous bow, and soft nose stem.

Rigged for scallop dredging, with dredge tipping doors and catch handling conveyors for 18 dredges a side, the vessel's fishroom can store 60 tonnes of scallops in 450kg bags and boasts a 3t ice locker.

Below deck, the scalloper is subdivided by four watertight bulkheads into: steering gear compartment, engine room, hold, store and forepeak tank.

Built to carry a crew of 8, on deck level there is an aft deckhouse combining galley and mess, accommodation, washroom, lobby, oilskin locker and workshop, with wheelhouse overlooking the work deck.

Winches onboard *Alcedo* were supplied by Padmos and EK Marine, with the latter also supplying the vessel's deck crane and fabricating the tipping doors and conveyors.



MAIN DIMENSIONS ALCEDO BA 77	
LENGTH OVERALL	33.75M
LENGTH REGISTER	29.95M
BREADTH MOULDED	8.90M
DEPTH MOULDED	4.67M
DRAUGHT AFT (DESIGN)	4.40M

FUEL CAPACITY (APPROX.)	40,000 LTRS
FRESH WATER CAPACITY	15,000 LTRS
HOLD CAPACITY (APPROX.)	60 TONNES IN 450KG BAGS
ICE LOCKER CAPACITY	3 TONNES
GROSS TONNAGE (APPROX.)	352 GT

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BLAST CLEANING & PROTECTIVE COATINGS SINCE 1968

INTERNAL SHIPHALL / DRY DOCKS UP TO 165 METRES

SPECIALIST FACILITIES | PROTECTIVE COATINGS | REGISTERED TECHNICIANS



PBP and employees would like to wish Iain and crew every future success with the new Aalskere.

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Aquamesh inventors celebrate 40 years in business



Jim with Irish Lobstermen

Riverdale Mills was founded in 1980, when manufacturing in the U.S. had yet to recover from two recessions, and many doubted the future of the industry. The Knott family believed otherwise. They transformed the lobster fishing industry with the invention of Aquamesh®, a first-of-its-kind, marine wire mesh designed to withstand the harsh ocean environment.

“We exist, have always existed, to help lobstermen lobster better,” said Riverdale

Mills CEO Jim Knott.

Last month, *The Skipper* caught up with the Riverdale Mills CEO about that business, its future and history. Here’s what we chatted about:

The Skipper (TS): What is the most important part of business these days?

Jim Knott (JK): Our family business has a unique history with an intense focus on innovation, a deep-rooted dedication to our employees, and an unwavering determination to deliver superior products and service to

every customer. We need to stay abreast and ahead of business developments, industry trends, and, most importantly, our customer’s needs.

TS: You became CEO in 2015. What is the toughest part of being in charge?

JK: Meshing all the moving pieces! Making sure to continually and simultaneously invest in our employees, equipment, R&D, service and global distribution, while last but not least of all, maintaining close relationships with each of our valued and loyal customers.

TS: What business leader do you most admire?

JK: My father, Jim Sr. I was lucky to work with him for over 30 years. It was not always easy, but he was entrepreneurial, dedicated, and innovative. He believed in Riverdale Mills and never shied away from protecting his company and the lobster industry.

TS: What changes do you anticipate moving forward?

JK: The demand for Aquamesh® continues to grow exponentially. It is one of the leading wire mesh fabrics for building lobster and crab pots, and fish pens, and we are selling the tools and accessories needed to assemble the pots and pens. We are committed to growing

internationally and staying connected to the fishermen and women who form some of the oldest and greatest fishing villages in the world.

TS: What is your proudest accomplishment?

JK: Riverdale Mills has transitioned from a start-up, with sales primarily limited to the Northeast region of the United States, to an internationally recognized leader in the wire industry. We now manufacture over 3,500 sizes of welded wire mesh for the marine, construction, security, and farming industries. Forty per cent of our products are exported to global customers.

TS: How much does your company’s history of inventing the marine wire mesh to make lobster traps shape who you are today?

JK: We are who we are today because of the support of lobstermen and women. The lobster fishing industry put us on the map, and we are deeply grateful. No matter where we go, or what products we sell, it always comes back to the welded wire mesh lobster trap. The lobstermen expect nothing but the best from Riverdale Mills. Knowing that keeps us focused on manufacturing great products and delivering even greater customer service.

Triskell Seafood now stockists for Stormline Commercial Fishing Gear in Ireland

Following feedback from customers, Sligo-based Triskell Seafood Ltd have expanded their clothing range to include Stormline products alongside their established offering of top quality professional work wear by the likes of Guy Cotten, Le Chameau, Helly Hansen, Northways and others.

Director Marie-Aude Danguy: “We are expanding our range of protective clothing for the Aquaculture Industry to include New Zealand brand Stormline. They have spent years researching and developing an oilskin material that is tough and durable while still being extremely soft to the touch. That’s important as there is so much movement required when you work in aquaculture and the clothing you wear has to be supple and comfortable to allow that movement.”

Founded in 1966 in New Zealand, Stormline is a family-run business that has been successfully expanding across the globe for over 50 years. Today the company manufactures a variety of professional rain gear and recreational wet weather gear that is renowned for its safety

features, quality and durability. Their promise – our clothes are 100% waterproof, we’ll keep you dry, protected and mobile all day long.

Triskell Seafood remains open and trading throughout the current crisis. We are available as usual to supply you with equipment, clothing and seed. You can see our full range at www.triskellseafood.com or follow us on www.facebook.com/triskellseafood.



Stormline Jacket



Stormline Bib

Wärtsilä to supply propulsion and power package for new *Artemis*



The new fishing trawler will feature outstanding fuel efficiency with Wärtsilä main and auxiliary engines. Copyright: Karstensen.

Technology group Wärtsilä have won the contract to supply the propulsion and power package for the new 75 metres long fishing trawler *Artemis* BF60, which is being built at Karstensen shipyard in Denmark for Scottish owners and operators Wiseman Fishing Co and Northbay Fishing Co.

Both the yard and Wiseman Fishing are longstanding customers of Wärtsilä. This latest order with Wärtsilä was placed in March. The vessel will feature a Wärtsilä 31 main engine, two Wärtsilä 14 power generating sets, a gearbox and a controllable pitch propeller (CPP), the combination of which represents the latest engine and power generation technology.

In designing the trawler, the aim has been to achieve the best power density, the most efficient

performance, and the lowest possible emission levels in order to achieve minimal environmental impact.

“It is always satisfying to receive repeat orders, since they are the best endorsement of customer satisfaction. We have earlier provided engines and propulsion solutions for both Karstensen and Wiseman Fishing, so it is an honour that they have once again put their trust in us for this new vessel.

“Fishing is necessary for feeding the world’s growing population, and while fishing operations are very diverse, the one common ambition is to be even more sustainable. It is important for us to know that this project supports the industry’s sustainability,” says Henrik Wilhelms, Director Offshore and Special vessels at Wärtsilä.

“The Wärtsilä 31 engine has outstanding fuel efficiency and we have installed it in several other of

our newbuilds. The Wärtsilä 14 is an exciting newcomer for us, and we are confident that it is the right choice for this and possible future ships that we build,” says Kent Damgaard, Director, Karstensen shipyard.

The Wärtsilä 31 engine has been recognised by Guinness World Records as being the world’s most efficient 4-stroke diesel engine, while the Wärtsilä 14 high-speed engine is the marine industry’s most compact engine in its power range.

Both the Wärtsilä 31 and the Wärtsilä 14 are integral elements within Wärtsilä’s Smart Marine vision for the future of shipping, whereby optimal efficiency, safety, and environmental sustainability will be the key pillars in achieving and maintaining profitable operations for ship owners and operators. The Wärtsilä equipment is scheduled for delivery to the yard in spring 2021.

The Skipper

In light of the current coronavirus pandemic and the impact it’s having on businesses across the fisheries sector, we wanted to see if we can help. If there is anything we can do in these worrying times, please let us know.

Do you have a new product, solution, or service you’re trying to promote to the fishing industry? Do you need help promoting an existing product or service? Do you have an innovative idea that might help the industry through these tough times? Do you have some news that you feel the industry should hear?

Simply email editorial@maramedia.ie with your news, and we will make every effort to post it on *The Skipper’s* website for our audience to see. Since launching www.theskipper.ie last autumn we’ve had more than 130,000 hits from visitors right around the world.

You can also send a direct message to our social media accounts:

- The Skipper* Social Pages
- **Instagram:** www.instagram.com/the-skipper_editor/
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 - **Twitter:** twitter.com/SkipperEditor

For advertising contact sharon@maramedia.ie

We understand these are trying times. Whatever happens amidst the great uncertainty we all face, over the coming months we will strive to continue to serve the industry as best as we can across our various platforms, from the print edition to our social media accounts and website.

In this regard, we would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continued support. The industry is resilient, it has been through tough times before. We are here to help you through this and if there is something we can do to help your business we will.

Though the current situation is unprecedented, we have no doubt that by supporting one another we will all manage to come through this.

FishFacts: world's first virtual FishExpo

Hanus and Óli Samró



400 of the biggest fishing vessels in the world are using FishFacts



400 of the biggest fishing vessels in the world, from Svalbard in the north to Antarctica in the south, and from Canada in the west to Okhotsk in the east, are using FishFacts.

"We have within a relatively short period of time developed a digital platform that focuses entirely on fisheries. We are connecting the world's fishing industry, i.e. fishing companies and service providers, to one simple platform: FishFacts."

For more information visit:
www.fishfacts.com

FishFacts is organising the world's first virtual FishExpo on June 9 to 10, 2020. The Faroese company was founded by father and son, Óli and Hanus Samró in April 2018.

"We were planning to attend numerous exhibitions in spring, incl. Bruxelles Seafood Show but everything was

cancelled, due to the Covid-19 crises," says Hanus Samró, Director of Sales.

So instead, father and son decided to organise the world's first virtual FishExpo.

"We have contacted our users and the reception has been unbelievably positive," says Hanus Samró.

Lockdown stopping you sailing? How to keep your fuel fit for purpose...

By Peter Weide, MarShip Ltd.

I have layed up a few vessels in my time including "cold layup" when engine turning procedures and heat lamps on motors are required etc.

We never gave much of a thought to the fuel storage, after all, Gas oil is Gas oil isn't it... there were never any problems associated with fuel.

But now, with modern, Ultra Low Sulphur Diesel and BioDiesel that has completely changed. Marine Gas Oil, A2, Red Diesel whatever it's called is unstable and hygroscopic, it actually absorbs water from the atmosphere and that water creates a host of problems.

Whereas no one is suggesting boats are going to have to be layed up for many months during this lockdown many will be tied up for many weeks, and without a simple fuel maintenance program there can be serious problems building up for when the boat next heads out.

Water is by far the greatest

single contaminant in diesel. It sits on the bottom of your tank and...

1. Forms a mildly acidic layer between the fuel and the water causing accelerated degradation.
2. It reduces fuel stability
3. It reduces fuel lubricity (and there is very little already!)
4. It rusts tanks
5. ...AND it harbours Diesel Bug which compounds all the above and will stop your engine. In severe cases it can eat through a steel tank—I've seen the pits and holes in the shipyard.

If you think you don't have water in your tank, you will have. All tanks have water in them. All you need to do is open the drain cock regularly to get rid of the water and add a biocide, that will keep your fuel fit for purpose in the short term and stop Diesel Bug taking hold from the areas in the tank that still have water. And there will be a few areas.

Diesel Bug like any bacteria or virus will double its number

every 20 minutes, in a perfect environment it multiplies exponentially... A still, dark and warm fuel tank on a boat tied up on sunny days is about as perfect environment as you can get!

If you haven't got a drain then you can use a pump with a hose or rent a Diesel Duck that will remove it automatically. To keep the water from returning and remove it when you are sailing then fit a Diesel Dipper. Having removed what water you can the Biocide will kill any Diesel Bug in the water that cannot be removed. We would recommend our manufacturer-approved Biocide DieselAid B.

Peter Weide, was a Marine Engineer, Mobil Oil marine lubes manager, ship repair Director and head of service sales with marine engine manufacturer Wärtsilä. He is always happy to answer any questions on fuel-related problems.

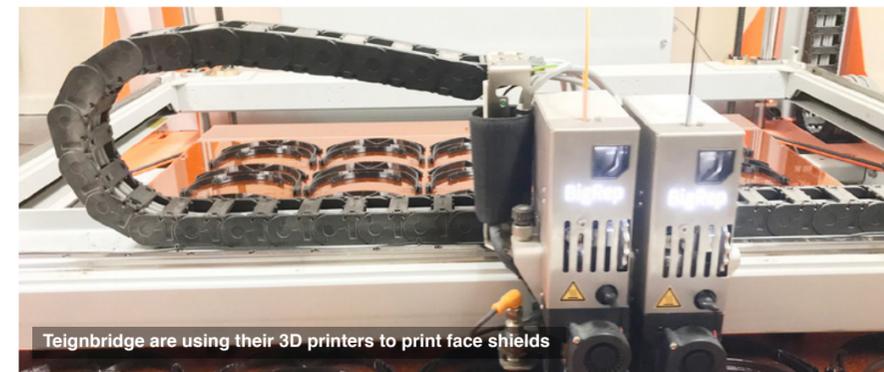
For more information visit: www.marship.eu or **contact:** 0044 1666 818 791 sales@marship.eu



Diesel Bug

Teignbridge Propellers 3D Prints Essential Face Shields

Teignbridge Propellers International // Teignbridge Propellers Int. Ltd. has partnered with South Devon College to put their engineering department on a new task, from propulsion to 3D printed face shields, giving back to the community and our key workers is paramount.



Teignbridge are using their 3D printers to print face shields



3D printed face shields

With innovation at the core of Teignbridge, it comes as no surprise that the company would turn to help their community with their technological equipment, namely their 3D printers. At the heart of the operation is Jack Ellis, the 27-year-old engineer who noticed South Devon College, UK was printing face shields and was eager to get Teignbridge involved with donating.

After the initial contact, it took less than 24 hours to begin printing these essential, life-saving shields. In partnership with South Devon College,

UK, Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust, various care homes, health centres and funeral directors, Teignbridge plans on printing 120+ frames a week with their BigRep and Creality Ender3 3D printers running non-stop.

Utilising strict social distancing requirements, Jack has explained that it takes 45 minutes per upper frame using the BigRep printer and the lower mask frames are being printed on the Creality Ender3 which will turn out 8 lower frames every 4 hours. Jack has stated he will not stop printing

them until Teignbridge's services are no longer needed.

Using PLA material, these frames are essential in providing protection from infectious droplets from entering the eyes, nose and mouth's of our essential workers during this difficult and unprecedented time.

Many of the staff at Teignbridge have family and friends who are on the frontline battling COVID-19, and with increased demands for PPE (personal protective equipment), it is paramount that face shields are not only produced to save

lives of those working with the infected but to be produced quickly and efficiently.

Teignbridge and South Devon College are using every resource available to ensure the safety of the community to effectively fight COVID-19.

By using 3D printing technologies, it is giving everyone the opportunity to assist in this crisis. If you are eager to get involved, South Devon College Hi-Tech & Digital Team has released their impressive 3D print file, which they have adapted from an original open-source file.

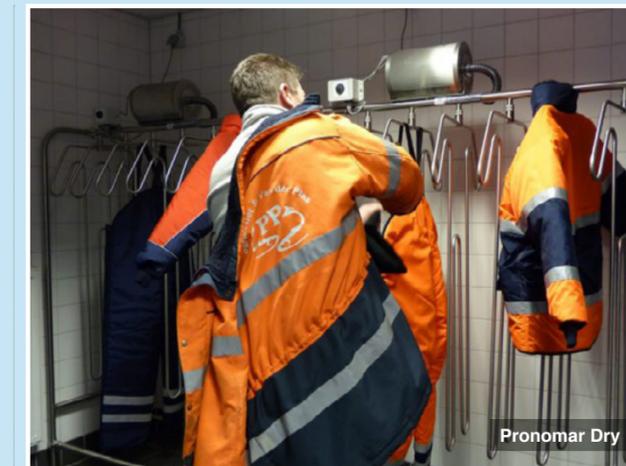
Pronomar contributes to COVID-19 hygiene measures for fishing industries

The fishing and fish processing industries are crucial parts of the seafood value chain, in which hygiene is subject to very strict measures. Especially since the arrival of the COVID-19 virus, these measures have reached new peaks and organisations are expected to tighten up all regulations and guidelines concerning hygiene. Pronomar, supplier of drying systems, has noticed an increasing interest coming from fisheries and fish processors since the onset of the Coronavirus.

"Companies are looking for all types of ways to improve the hygiene within their organisation. Properly washing, drying and airing the workwear is naturally a

crucial part in this process. If fishing gear or freezer clothing remains damp for too long because of condensation or perspiration, bacteria will start to grow and enlarge the risk of diseases and contamination," said Loran Broekmans, Sales Manager Food.

Pronomar has been providing drying systems to fishing trawlers and organisations within the fish processing industry for quite some time, ensuring that their clothing can be dried quickly and thoroughly. Additionally, working in comfortable and dry work gear improves the resistance of workers and decreases susceptibility to diseases.



Pronomar Dry

Are you interested to know what Pronomar can do for your organisation?

Visit www.pronomar.com or call +31 (0)78 68 19 481 for more information.

Gender, the coronavirus and the seafood sector

Why do we need to consider gender when dealing with COVID-19 risks and impacts in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors?

At this point of the pandemic, though we can't fully depict what the consequences will be on both genders, we can ascertain that the coronavirus outbreak will hit women harder than men, threaten progress made in empowering women and deepen gender inequities already pervasive in the fisheries sector, write Natalia Briceño-Lagos & Marie Christine Monfort from The International Association for Women in the Seafood Industry (WSI)

On account of this, WSI will watch how the contagion and related economic downturn hits both genders in fisheries, aquaculture and the entire seafood value chain, and examine more closely the situation that women encounter.

Global Crisis

The pandemic is spreading all over the world and national responses vary greatly according to the different countries' healthcare systems, capacities, quality of care and conditions of access.

One universal feature is that women are on the frontline of the battle against the virus in every country. With very few exceptions women represent the vast



Aqua cl Planta-de-Los-Fiordos. Image: WSI

"In order to answer these questions and put forward smart and resilient responses, we need gender-disaggregated data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. Efforts in this direction must also be made in the surveillance and monitoring stages of the pandemic."

majority (70%) of the healthcare workforce, bear a large part of the responsibility for the care and education continuity of children

when schools have closed and for keeping the family safe during this very uncertain time.

However, we must not forget that women in the food industry, particularly in seafood, are also part of this front line. They have a key role in ensuring food security for all.

The seafood industry's gender division of labour: women are more exposed to the virus

Let us recall that women occupy a significant part of the fisheries workforce, representing half of the entire world labour force in this sector.

The FAO estimates that women comprise 15% of the harvesting workforce, 70% of the aquaculture workforce, and somewhere between 80 and 90% of the seafood processing workforce. In Africa and Asia, women also represent 60% of seafood traders and retailers.

Clearly, women are fundamental agents in the organisation and functioning of the local, regional and global flows of seafood.

Furthermore, men and women occupy distinct roles along the seafood value chain. CEOs, board members and fishermen are nearly all males. Whereas employees in processing plants, for example, shrimp peelers, are nearly all female.

The seafood industry shows a strong gendered vertical division of labour whereby a majority of ignored, invisible, unrecognized (IIU) women occupy low-revenue jobs and where top jobs are occupied mostly by men.

In that regard, the coronavirus will strike genders differently – these gender imbalances will shape the experiences of women and men affected by the pandemic, unequally.

Identifying the positions that most women occupy can already begin to shed light on the impacts that this crisis will have on them.

Women mostly present at the bottom may have to continue their working activities to get an income, the opportunity to stay at home like those at the top not being offered to them. Adding to this, occupations where women are located, in processing plants

and retail markets, bring with them higher exposure to the virus.

One emergency response given by some companies is to protect their frontline employees processing seafood by ensuring decent and safe working environments with proper protective equipment. This requires changes in work routines, purchase of protective equipment and clothing. Not all companies will have complied with these strict recommendations.

Coronavirus and economic crash

In this world-wide pandemic, labour markets, seafood markets and other inputs (such as finances) will be deeply affected. Job losses, estimated at 25 million, says the ILO, will be inevitable.

The fall in business revenues will inexorably result in the reduction of costs by laying off workers, starting with temporary and casual ones disproportionately occupied by women. This is already happening in the Chilean salmon industry, for instance, which is reducing the production capacity of its plants by almost half, with layoffs already happening among precarious workers.

We have already seen the early effects on seafood businesses and fishing communities relying on imports from China. The consequent rise in prices induces a severe disruption of local markets as seen in Cameroon or South Africa.

The widespread work-from-home movement will enable millions of workers to keep their jobs and their salary partly or fully. But this arrangement is largely available to white-collar workers.

In the seafood industry, those office workers protected by full-time work contracts are mainly men.

Women in low-paid jobs with insecure employment conditions are at greater risk of losing their income. When women lose their income, they severely cut budgets supporting the well-being of their children, households and communities (e.g. housing, food, healthcare or childcare).

Disruption along the seafood value chain

Who will be the most affected link in the chain when the seafood value chain will be disrupted?

How will the drop in landings and consequent fast-rising prices such as already observed in West Africa affect male fishermen,



Image: Seafish UK

"WSI considers that if we want to find the most effective ways to deal with COVID-19, all workers, especially women, need to be listened to and involved in building future responses."

female processors, female retailers and the entire community?

How will the stop of movements of seafood impact the different categories of players?

We have already witnessed that exhaustion of marine resources, where it has occurred, has had a dramatic impact on women (in charge of processing, trading) and we fear similar disproportionate and discriminatory effects of COVID-19.

In order to answer these questions and put forward smart and resilient responses, we need gender-disaggregated data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. Efforts in this direction must also be made in the surveillance and monitoring stages of the pandemic. Effective responses need to be backed by quality data and evidence-based solutions.

Alongside this, women must be a part of the decision-making processes that public authorities will engage. As far as WSI is concerned we will set up a data collection program and organise a watch on the local and regional impact of the pandemic.

Very probable prospects in a highly uncertain future

The achievement of the 2030 SDGs will be critically hampered by the economic impacts of the coronavirus crisis.

We face the possibility that when resources are needed to combat the pandemic, the ability of countries to spend on other development priorities, such

as combating climate crisis or gender inequality, will be severely constrained.

We run the risk that in this period of high economic turbulence leaders will think that gender equality (SDG 5) is not a priority, and that it can wait until the economy is looking up. This would amount to repeating past mistakes.

In overlooking the gender dimension in the seafood industry, policymakers have in the past drawn wrong diagnoses on marine resource and economic management. Consequently, efforts to meet SDG14—Life Below Water—may well miss their target.

What is needed first and foremost is awareness on the fact that SDG 14 will not be attained if 50% of the population it affects is not taken into consideration.

Gender must be embedded in all elements and targets of SDG 14 policy.

When we are ready to get back on our feet and get the blue economy going again—hopefully, a truly sustainable version of the blue economy—decision-makers must consider the gender organisation of the industry.

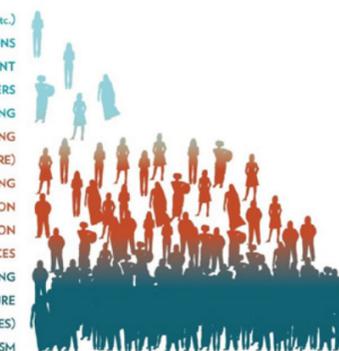
We otherwise predict that responses will fail and inequalities between women and men will increase. Research from other types of health crises has shown that leaving gender inequalities out of the crisis response has further compounded those inequalities.

WSI considers that if we want to find the most effective ways to deal with COVID-19, all workers, especially women, need to be listened to and involved in building future responses.

WSI | GENDER ON THE AGENDA

Where are women situated in the seafood industry?

LEADERSHIP (CEO, CFO, Etc.)
PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS
FISHERIES MANAGEMENT
CONFERENCE SPEAKERS
INDUSTRIAL FISHING
SMALL SCALE FISHING
FISHERIES SUPPORT ACTIVITIES (ASHORE)
SELLING AND MARKETING
ADMINISTRATION
QUALITY INSPECTION
RESEARCHERS, MARINE AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
ON-SHORE FISHING - GLEANING
SMALL SCALE AQUACULTURE
SEAFOOD PROCESSING (EMPLOYEES)
ENVIRONMENT ACTIVISM



Vietnam. Image: WSI

All images supplied by Don Fullerlove

Aodh na Mara & Michelle na Mara



Both vessels were launched at the yard at the beginning of April

TWO NEW 15 METRE CRABBERS LAUNCHED IN VIETNAM FOR MAYO

On Friday, April 3rd, two new 15-metre vivier crabbers, *Aodh na Mara* and *Michelle na Mara*, were launched in Vietnam for Mayo fisherman Jonathan O'Donnell, West Coast Crab Ltd. The vessels are due to be delivered early this summer.

Designed by Macduff Ship Design and built in Vietnam at the Ha Long Shipyard under a cooperative arrangement between Shipbuilding Asia Ltd (SBA) and the yard, the steel-hulled vessels feature a transom stern, bulbous bow, and soft nose stem.

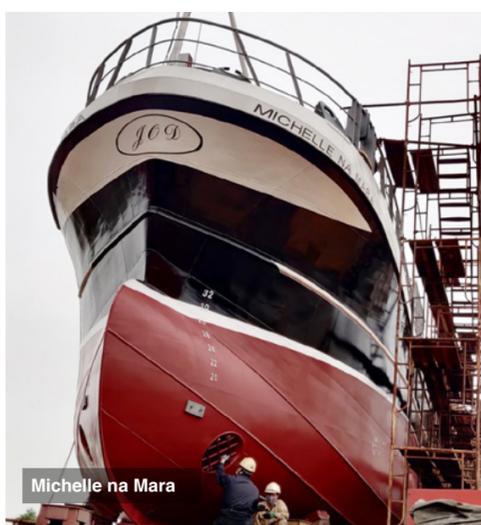
Both fully shelter-decked with forward hydraulic hauling hatch, the new vessels boast 17-tonne twin vivier tanks with fully duplicated backup systems, dry hold and refrigerated bait store. Each has accommodation for 6 crew on board.

Below deck, the vessels are subdivided by four watertight bulkheads into aft accommodation with steering gear, engine room, vivier, hold and forepeak. Steel galley, mess and washroom are located on the main deck, with pot hauling and shooting position located starboard, forward.

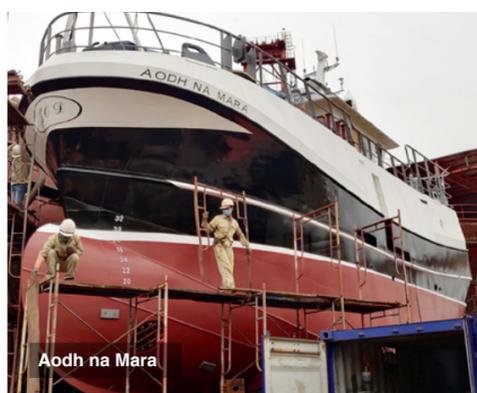
With over 1500 employees, Ha Long Shipyard has a wealth of experience in all areas of marine construction and boatbuilding. Both vessels were built under BV supervision in accordance with MCA and Seafish rules.

Once complete, the vessels will make the long journey home by ship as deck cargo. A full feature of the new vessels will appear in a future issue of *The Skipper*.

For enquiries and further details contact Don Fullerlove at boatman10@gmail.com



Michelle na Mara



Aodh na Mara



Pre-launch prayer and offering



Successful launch

FACT FILE

MAIN DIMENSIONS	
LENGTH OVERALL	14.95M
LENGTH REGISTER	13.63M
BREADTH MOULDED	6.10M
DEPTH MOULDED	3.25M
FUEL CAPACITY	8,900 LTRS
FRESH WATER CAPACITY	2,500 LTRS
VIVIER GROSS VOLUME (APPROX.)	30,000 LTRS
MAIN ENGINE	BAUDOIN 6W126M

Malin Head Co-op takes v-notching into their own hands, as BIM Scheme remains closed

Malin Head Fisherman's Co-Op found themselves left with some 288 lobsters (365 kilos) waiting in tanks to be v-notched, after a decision was taken by BIM, due to current market conditions, not to open the v-notching scheme as of yet this year. Speaking to *The Skipper*, Co-Op manager Eddie Kelly said the Co-Op felt they had been left with no choice but to undertake the v-notching themselves, at a cost of €4,000 euro. On the day *The Skipper* spoke to him, April 15, the lobsters had been released.

In a statement, a BIM spokesperson said, "The scheme has not yet opened in 2020 since only a small number of the fleet are currently fishing and the market for lobster remains low. Typically, most v-notching takes place during peak lobster fishing when the majority of the fleet are landing lobster."

With the market for lobsters so poor, Mr Kelly said he could understand BIM's logic, however, he explained, each year Malin Co-Op notch around 2.5 to 3 tonnes of lobster under the scheme. In line with this, this year they had more than 300 kilos put aside for v-notching. "And so when the scheme didn't open, we were left with those lobsters," he said.

Stressing that it had not been the intention of the Co-Op to encourage people to fish lobsters just to v-notch, boats were being instructed not to do so, he said. But, and now stuck with COVID-19, given these had already been put aside they found it difficult to understand why they could not be v-notched. "So we notched the lobsters ourselves at our own cost," he said.

Funded under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, each year up to 35,000 adult female lobsters caught by Irish inshore fishermen are v-notched and returned to sea to allow them to continue to reproduce. Legislation makes it illegal to land, hold, or sell these lobsters.

Arising from concerns by members of the Irish fishing sector in the early 1990s about the sustainability of the stock, Ireland was the first country to introduce this measure in Europe in 1994. Since then the programme has grown year on year.

Like many in the inshore sector around the coast, Malin Head Co-Op has embraced the scheme. Out of 31,000 lobsters v-notched in 2017, 3,500 of those were done by the Co-Op. Manager Kelly said they have seen a real difference in stocks since they started.

Concerning the opening of this year's scheme, BIM say they are in regular consultation with the industry and the opening date remains under review.



Malin Head Co-op recently v-notched and released some 288 lobsters at their own cost

To land spawning fish is incomprehensible!

Dear Editor,

Over the past month, as more boats join the lobster fleet (out of desperation than viability), I have noted one or two landing boxes of spawning lobsters. It is scandalous that somebody would, first, land these and, second, that any buyer would buy them.

I understand we are all under pressure at the moment with lack of markets, but we're all in the same boat and stealing from tomorrow will not make any of us better off in the long run.

It is time, I believe, that the Government stood in here and banned the landing of berried fish completely. People complain of

restrictions, but laws are only there because of a greedy minority that have no respect for the future of the stocks, just a short term gain.

It's maddening that they'd land fish for such a bad price at 10 euro a kg and cripples only 4 euro a kg, but to land the spawning fish is incomprehensible!

Concerned fisherman, Cork.

No Fisheries Progress in Brexit Negotiations

The second round of negotiations concerning the EU's future relationship with the UK last month yielded no progress on the question of fisheries.

In a statement following the talks which took place via videoconference, Michel Barnier, the EU's chief negotiator said the goal of the talks was to advance on all areas of negotiation in parallel, including the most difficult areas. This, however, he said, had only "very partially" been achieved.

The UK, he said, had "refused

to engage seriously on a number of fundamental issues". On the "essential topic" of fisheries, he said, no progress was made.

Whether or not a deal can be secured by the end of the year, at this stage, remains questionable. In terms of fisheries certainly—an area with a timeline aimed at an initial agreement by July 1st, with the objective then of agreeing quotas for 2021—things look especially doubtful.

"We have made no tangible progress despite the Political Declaration stating that we should

make our best endeavours to reach an agreement by July. This is necessary to provide sufficient clarity for EU and UK fishermen, and also for all businesses linked to fisheries," Barnier said.

Reiterating the point the EU negotiator has made repeatedly on the centrality of fisheries to any future relationship, he said, "The EU will not agree to any future economic partnership that does not include a balanced, sustainable and long-term solution on fisheries. That should be crystal clear to the UK."

NEWS in brief

French fishermen angry over cheap imports

Over the past month, the French media has reported fishermen in Lorient complaining about the impact imports, including imports from Ireland, are having on local markets.

According to the fishermen, fish is being imported into France at much lower prices than local fish can keep up with. Hake from Spain, they say, is being bought for €1-1.50/kg! Imported monk for €2.50-3/kg, about half what local fishermen are being paid. This situation, they say, applies to all Breton ports. In response, they have threatened to stop fishing.

Keep supply chains open? The benefits of a common market indeed!

Inis Ealga site investigation consultation extended

The previous submission deadline of April 10th on DP Energy's application to carry out site investigations for a possible wind farm at the Inis Ealga site of the coast of Waterford and Cork has been extended due to COVID-19.

The new deadline for submission is May 9th 2020. Project and submission details can be viewed on the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government's website at <https://bit.ly/2yN8NAD>

Fish oil. The key to beating coronavirus?

A treatment for coronavirus based on Eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA)—an omega-3 fatty acid found in the flesh of cold-water fish, including mackerel, herring, tuna, halibut, salmon, cod liver, whale blubber, or seal blubber—will soon begin trials in Britain.

Manufacturers, KD Pharma Group and partner SLA Pharma say there is evidence from clinical trials relating to another disease that the new fish oil-based drug, EPAAspire, works to suppress some of the physiological processes in the body thought to contribute to the progression of COVID-19's symptoms.

On account of this, the UK's Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has moved to expedite clinical trials of the drug, which are expected to commence shortly. Discussions are also ongoing with authorities in other European countries, says the company, and an application has been submitted to the FDA in the US.

Advisory councils publish report on steps to sustainably manage fishing gear

People who fish are part of the solution

Last January, the North Western Waters Advisory Council (NWWAC) hosted a workshop "Re-imagining Gear in a Circular Economy" in Brussels in conjunction with the Baltic Sea Advisory Council, North Sea Advisory Council and Pelagic Advisory Council. Discussion at the workshop focused on the fishing gear component of the EU's recently introduced Single-Use Plastics Directive, specifically the design, monitoring, collecting and disposal of fishing gear.

The workshop built on the conclusions from the joint NWWAC/Market Advisory Council workshop on "Plastics and the Seafood Supply Chain", held in Brussels on the 7th of November last year, which brought together experts and scientists with the members of nine Advisory Councils. Among those from Ireland who gave expert presentations at the

January meeting were BIM's Catherine Barrett, Cormac McGinley, Senior Harbour Master, Castletownbere, and Rodney O'Sullivan, Manager, Swan Net Gundry.

Around 50 participants from 10 different EU Member States discussed difficulties faced by the fishing sector relating to the proposed measures. These include the proposed introduction of an Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme, under which producers of fishing gear cover the costs of the separate collection of waste fishing gear and its subsequent transport and treatment, as well as the envisaged standardisation of gear, relating to the circular design of fishing gear to encourage preparation for re-use and facilitate recyclability at end-of-life, and the overall lack of data regarding volumes of end-of-life gear and current recycling rates.

Clear recommendations from the workshop include the need for a full lifecycle analysis of the various types of fishing gear, as well as a complete supply



Clear recommendations include the need for a full lifecycle analysis of the various types of fishing gear. Image: Fishing for Litter

chain analysis in order to arrive at a clear picture of the scale of the issue. While communication and awareness-raising within the sector are paramount, all stakeholders at local, national and EU policy level must come together to coordinate their approach, as this issue falls within several policy areas, namely fisheries, waste management and circular economy.

People who fish are part of the

solution and their enthusiasm and involvement, not only in voluntary Fishing for Litter schemes, but also in finding practical solutions for design, collection and disassembly must be acknowledged and applauded.

The full workshop report, which has just been published, is available in English, French and Spanish in the publications section on the NWWAC website www.nwwac.org.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



MONTHLY COMPETITION

Send in your best fishing related photo and you could win a *Sotra Fleece* by Guy Cotten plus the chance to win overnight accommodation at the Irish Skipper Expo 2021.

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.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES: Simply get your phones and cameras out, and send us your hi-res photos by email to 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.



APRIL WINNER: PAUL DIRRANE CARMAROSE SO555 FISHING BLUE WHITING WEST OF IRELAND

THE MONTHLY PRIZE

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The Archives - MAY 1971

SEACOOK, the author of this article, writes as a man who knows the limitations of a rolling galley, but does not accept that fishermen must always eat dull food while at sea. Two more articles will follow.

"fasc Aoife"—delicious, as is, I'm sure, every one of the thousands of entries in our annual fish cooking competitions. But although their like would gladden the heart, eye, and stomach of any man coming in with a pint or an appetite on him, I have often wondered how suitable they might be for serving on a deck that's none too steady underfoot.

My own credentials for offering these recipes for sea-cooks are poor enough. You might say I have no qualifications, only experience, and I have no sauces except hunger, honest work, and butter.

Hunger and butter are this cook's only sauce

But butter is the king of sauces.

My first recipe is for lobster fishermen and west coast men at that, to be tried once or twice early in the season when there's not enough coming in to justify buying bait and the trammels are out instead for a few rockfish.

East coast men, or those reared entirely on trawling, will not have a great acquaintance with the rockfish—ballan wrasse. In the east it tends to be brown or green-yellow, to grow to about a pound, and is despised nearly everywhere as pig-bream. On the west coast it can grow as big as four to six pounds, be speckled brown and blue and red and brown all over, and develops a great flavour from

crunching the "diarlicin"—seed mussels—off the rocks. Salted, it is highly regarded in Aran and Galway where it is known as "ballach"—I have seen Aranmen handline fishing for it from the top of a 120-foot cliff at the back of Inismore.

In using ballan wrasse as lobster bait normal practice is to salt it for a couple of days. If you get one, or a couple, of those big speckled ones let me suggest that you salt them only for about 24 hours, wash them off with a drop of clean water, and let them dry for four or five days. Then some morning, when all hands have worked up a fine appetite running down a string of a hundred pots or so, throw the salt fish in on top of a pot of

Connemara spuds in their jackets.

If the spuds still have some seaweed fertiliser sticking to them you needn't be too fussy about scraping it all off, but be sure to use fresh water for boiling them and add no salt. Let them cook only till the spuds are bursting their jackets. Serve in plates deep enough to accommodate some of the soup, and garnish the table with a pound of butter, a dish of salt, and a couple of small onions sliced into segments like in an orange. Serve good tay with it or fresh milk if available.

I first tried it one time when fishing was so bad that a Connemara man commented—"Ta Dia go maith ar an trochaire ach ní chéanochas tu baidh gan airgid". Money we hadn't got and didn't get at that time, and it was our lobster bait that we ate, but hunger we hadn't got either.

FAHEY STATES OFFICIAL VIEW

(Continued from page 7) arrangements for market support.

"The common fisheries policy also provides for grant assistance towards measures taken to increase productivity. Thus, for example, grants can be provided for an improvement of fishing fleets and fishing research. This again should be of considerable advantage to us at the present stage of development of our fishing industry."

Answer from Dunmore East skipper

Following the publication of Mr. Fahey's statement in the "Irish Times", the Dunmore East skipper, Alan Glanville, wrote a letter to that newspaper saying that it was just as easy to sell our fish in the Community now as it would be if we were an E.E.C. member, thus virtually ruling out any significant marketing concessions.

Given access to Irish waters, he said, a Norwegian purse seine fleet, capable of taking a million tons of herring a year, would swoop on our stocks regardless of their experience at home of fishing out their own waters to the point of barrenness.

The Germans had 90 giant factory stern trawlers that are each able to make 500-ton trips. Why would these Germans make trips to Nova Scotia for herring when Ireland is nearer, he asked.

The Dutch, described by Mr. Glanville as "the cleverest herring fishermen in Europe," well informed on Irish herring movements, would "descend on our herring like a pack of wolves on a sock of lambs." He said that in addition to herring, the big European fleets would show keen interest in our other stocks as a convenient substitute for fish they now catch thousands of miles from their shores.

He warned specifically of the Dutch beam trawl fleet and the Danish salmon drift net fleet. Summing up, he said that under the E.E.C. Ireland will become one gigantic trans-shipment port for thousands of foreign vessels plundering our stocks.

BADGES TO HELP CAMPAIGN

In view of the fact that the defence of Ireland's national waters has become the concern of many people who are not fishermen—not to mention the many who are—there is expected to be a good demand for lapel badges now being manufactured by Trefoil Products of Dunmore East.

They are in coloured leather, are about the size of an old penny, and say "Save our fishing from an E.E.C. sellout." They cost 2s newpence each, and kits of 50 can be ordered post free from the makers. Fishermen's associations are taking them in bulk.

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CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION STARTS FUND FOR ANTI-E.E.C. CAMPAIGN

A FUND has been launched by the Federation of Irish Fishing Co-operatives in conjunction with the I.A.O.S. to defer expenses incurred in the campaign against the present fishing policy of the E.E.C.

So far, local co-operative managers and fishermen's representatives have been involved in frequent negotiations with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Department of Foreign Affairs. Also, a meeting was held with the Minister of Foreign Affairs last month.

Dr. Hillery agreed with the case made by representatives of the federation and the I.A.O.S., and machinery has been put in motion to ensure that close contact will be maintained between the Government Departments, the Federation and the I.A.O.S. as negotiations with the E.E.C. proceed.

sure must be kept at the maximum level.

The fishermen concerned give this service voluntarily to the federation and they are now engaged in work of crucial importance to every skipper and crewman in the country. It is, therefore, important that a fund should be established immediately, to cover the expenses involved in the present campaign.

It is suggested that each boat in the port should contribute to the fund at the rate of £1

per boat per week for the months of May and June. This should be collected by the co-operative society. Cheques should be sent to the I.A.O.S. and drawn in favour of the "Federation of Irish Fishing Co-operatives."

In order to identify the letters as they reach the I.A.O.S. office the word "Federation" should be written or typed on the left-hand top corner of the envelope. The address is 84 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.

Hillery gives assurance

SPEAKING at Drimoleague, Co. Cork, last month, Dr. Hillery, Minister for Foreign Affairs, referred to the E.E.C. fishery policy and listed advantages of membership, which, he said, included the free circulation of fishery products and minimum prices.

"Community finance will be made available to producer organisations. Money will also be provided towards measures to increase productivity. For example, grants may be made towards improving fishing fleets and towards research into fishing.

"There is, however, one part of the policy about which we are most concerned. This provides for equality of access to the fishery waters of each member State by the fishing vessels of the other member States. I have no intention of minimising the size of the problem that this freedom of access could cause for our fishermen.

"Secondly, and more important perhaps from the long-term point of view, would be the harmful effects on our fish resources. For free access to our fishery waters would lead inevitably to over-fishing, and this could have the effect of wiping out our stocks of fish.

RAISED REGULARLY

"This problem of access to our inshore fisheries is a matter which I have raised at every meeting I have had with the Community. Our officials have discussed it in all detail with the E.E.C. Commission. The question has not yet come up for substantive discussion in the negotiations but I have told the Community that I intend to pursue the matter. Accordingly, it is as yet much too early to attempt to forecast what will emerge from the negotiations on the matter.

"There is one point I would like to make clear and that is that my concern about foreign fishermen coming in around our coasts is not based on emotion. Rather it has its basis in sound economics. It is because I see in our fish resources great prospects for our economic and regional development that I—and the other members of the Government—do not wish to see anything done to wipe out those prospects."

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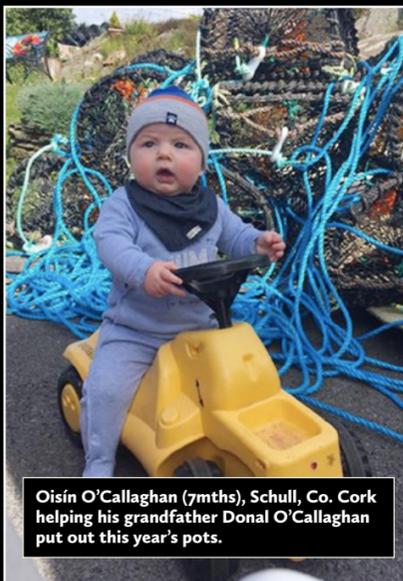
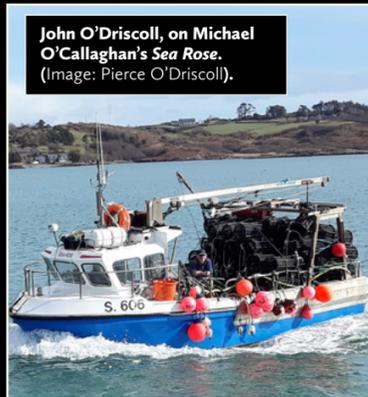
Daragh Murphy (4th generation fisherman) with his Dad Dean Murphy (3rd generatio fisherman) hauling his first ever lobster pot. It had 2 fine lobsters in it too!



Ardglass fleet in last month, waiting on winds to ease before heading out. (Image: Chris Feenan).



John O'Driscoll, on Michael O'Callaghan's Sea Rose. (Image: Pierce O'Driscoll).



Oisín O'Callaghan (7mths), Schull, Co. Cork helping his grandfather Donal O'Callaghan put out this year's pots.



Diarmuid, Eoin and Ross Dirrane, Inis Mór, Aran Islands. (Image: Fiona Dirrane).



Cousins Daryl and Caolán, taking a break at Ballywhoriskey. (Image: Kathryn Martin).



The Belgian trawler *Sola Gratia* coming in to Thyborøn, Denmark in a westerly gale on April 1st. (Image: Sean Glackin).



Rachel Jay coming into Ardglass with the last of the mackerel. (Image: Chris Feenan).



82-year-old Moss Williams (Fenit, Co Kerry) passing his time cocooning in the shed filling needles for his son who is mounting fishing gear in another shed. (Image: John Williams).



Foyle Warrior, caught on camera by Martin Toland on board the *Catherine R* steaming for Greencastle.



Carmarose & Colmcille fishing blue whiting West of Ireland. (Image: Paul Dirrane).

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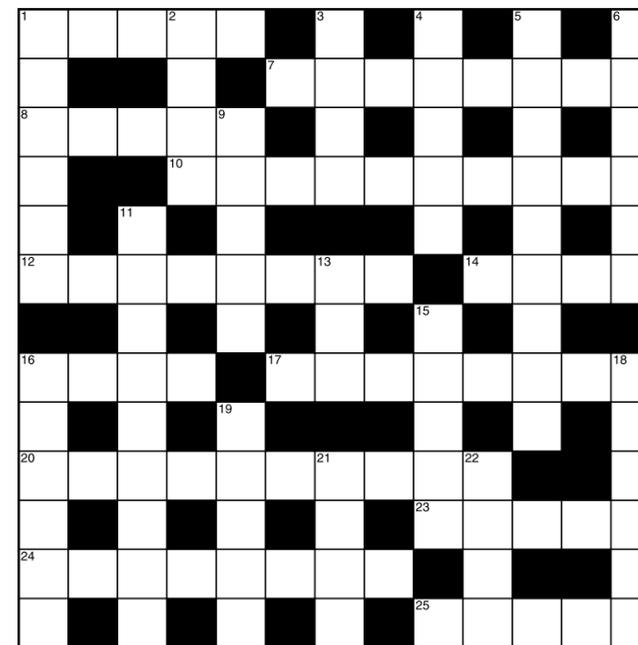
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 SMALL ■ MEDIUM ■ LARGE ■ XL ■ 2XL ■

ACROSS

1. Belt hole
7. Urged
8. Sleeveless garments
10. Specially tagging
12. Shortage
14. Imitates
16. Champagne, ... & Chandon
17. Red alerts
20. Longest
23. Mayhem
24. Admission (exam)
25. Secreting organ

DOWN

1. Books
2. Attractive
3. ..., taut & terrific
4. Smug grin
5. Denuding
6. Proverbs
9. Relish or salsa
11. Small round kernels
13. Liqueur, ... Maria
15. Grind (teeth) together
16. Thawed
18. Seasoned
19. Collection of charts
21. Ancient Peruvian
22. Pursue closely



*Failure to select jacket size will result in void entry

APRIL SOLUTION

F	I	N	A	N	C	E	D	L	I	M	B
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G	L	A	D	R	E	A	C	H	I	N	G
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Images by: Seán Mac an tSíthigh

Fishermen take to the pier again in Dingle

French-flagged vessel prevented from landing



Those involved in the Dingle blockade say their actions have been motivated by a concern for the health of their communities



By Lia ní Aodha

Fishermen in Dingle once again took to the pier last month to protest risks associated with, what they see as, inadequate checks on foreign vessels landing at the pier, amidst fears of the spread of coronavirus in the town by crews off those vessels.

Despite a large Garda presence, as many as forty protestors comprising local fishermen and residents held their blockade into the early hours of the morning of April 20th, eventually forcing the French-flagged, Spanish-owned vessel *Sylvanna* to abandon plans to land at the pier.

Though the vessel itself did manage to berth at around 4.30am, the Spanish agent acting on behalf of the company was prevented from accessing the pier by fishermen and locals who lay on the ground. The vessel left the pier at 5.30am, making its way instead to Castletownbere, where it landed later that morning.

The blockade in Dingle follows a similar action in March involving some thirty fishermen at the Kerry port, and threatened in Castletownbere, which saw two French-flagged, Spanish-owned vessels divert south instead of landing in either of the south-west ports.

According to reports in the

Spanish media, the problems Spanish-owned vessels have had landing in Ireland has been raised with Brussels by Spanish MEP, Nicolás González Casares, who has written to the Commission asking for measures to ensure the fleet can land in European ports.

The fishermen involved in the blockades say their actions, rather than being about fishing, have been motivated by a concern for the health of their communities and a desire to protect their locale from the virus in the middle of a pandemic.

Measures that have been put in place—such as requirements to submit Maritime Declarations of Health and updated crew lists before arriving into an Irish port, and new guidelines involving designated landing spaces for vessels—have not alleviated their concerns, say the Dingle fishermen, who also say they will continue to block foreign vessels in an effort to protect their town.

Though the initial blockade by fishermen in March was quickly ‘condemned’ by several of the largest fishing organisations in the country and by the Minister, similar sentiments of anxiety, clearly non-fishing related, have been expressed in various locales around the country since social distancing guidelines were introduced by the Government to contain the spread of the virus.

In Schull, for example, to deter visitors, both day-trippers and those with holiday homes, an “If you don’t live here you shouldn’t be here!!” placard has been erected by locals, removed and erected again on several occasions over the past number of weeks.

Meanwhile, in Vigo concerns have been raised about testing protocols for fishermen and crews on Spanish vessels, after a crewmember on the Spanish longliner, *Ribel Tercero* displaying coronavirus symptoms was evacuated off the vessel last month last month off the coast of the Azores. The fisherman, who was transferred to hospital, later tested positive for the virus.

The vessel had been at sea with some fifteen days by the time the fisherman was evacuated. Despite authorities having been fully informed by the vessel owner and

company of the case on board, when the *Ribel Tercero* landed in Vigo, the vessel’s nine other crew—who on arrival waited for the deployment of some kind of protocol which was not forthcoming—were eventually transferred by the vessel owner to their homes for quarantine without knowing if they had the virus or not.

Questions have since been raised in Spain regarding the protocols in place for dealing with positive cases onboard vessels at sea, given the crew were allowed to return home prior to testing rather than being tested in port on landing. The country’s fishing organisations have also called for mandatory testing for all fishermen before boarding so as to avoid situations like the one experienced by those on the *Ribel Tercero*, and the risk, given the limited space on board a vessel, of contagion among the crew.

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