



# The Skipper

1964-2020



LEADING JOURNAL OF THE IRISH & UK INDUSTRIES APRIL 2020 €3.50/£3.00

# CORONACRISIS

'Worst case scenario' materialises as coronavirus crisis hits fishing industry hard. See pages 2-3



[www.theskipper.ie/subscribe/](http://www.theskipper.ie/subscribe/)  
**DIGITAL ISSUE  
SUBSCRIBE  
NOW**

ONE STORM AFTER THE OTHER. AVRELLA LK174 HEADING INTO LERWICK FOR SHELTER FROM STORM DENNIS. IMAGE: CHARLIE UMPHRAY.

## BUY ONLINE OR PHONE YOUR ORDER IN

NEXT DAY DELIVERY | FREE DELIVERY TO IRL & NI FOR ORDERS OVER €50

STAY SAFE!



SKIBBEREEN: Nautic House, Marsh Rd  
CORK: Frankfield Ind. Est., Frankfield Rd

call us on  
**021 4315700**

buy online  
[www.chmarine.com](http://www.chmarine.com)



**EDITOR:** Lia ní Aodha  
editorial@maramedia.ie  
Mob: 086 823 9608



**SALES:** Sharon Boyle  
sharon@maramedia.ie  
Tel: 074 95 480 37  
Mob: 086 840 1250

**PRODUCTION /DESIGN:**

Declan McGrath  
design@maramedia.ie

**MANAGING DIRECTOR:**

Hugh Bonner  
hugh@maramedia.ie

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:**

sarah@maramedia.ie  
Tel: 074 95 62828

**PRINTED BY:**

WG Baird, Antrim, N.I.  
www.wgbaird.com

**CONTRIBUTORS:**

Lorna Siggins  
Niall Duffy  
Craig Taylor,  
Dick James,  
Gudjon Eirnarsson,  
Shetland News



Published monthly by Mara Media,  
Annagry, Co Donegal.  
www.maramedia.ie

In the compilation of The Skipper, every care is taken to ensure accuracy. Where errors or omissions are brought to the attention of Foilseachán na Mara Teo, future publications will be amended accordingly. However, Foilseachán na Mara Teo, does not accept liability to any person for loss or damage arising from anything contained in this publication or for any error or omission in it, even if such loss or damage is caused by negligence of Foilseachán na Mara Teo, its servants or agents. Opinions and articles featured are not necessarily the opinions of Foilseachán na Mara Teo.

**INSIDE THE APRIL ISSUE**

- P 4 **Fishermen blockade Dingle Port**
- P 12-13 **More light, less bycatch**
- P 16 **EU support measures**
- P 38-39 **Women of the RNLI**

Marine & General Insurance Brokers, "Insuring Your World Today"

**Cavanagh Hooper Dolan**  
Insurances Ltd.

Tel: +353 (0)74 9177500 Fax: +353 (0)74 9177200  
Email: info@chd.ie Web: www.chd.ie

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



Clodagh O landing after Castletownbere boats asked to tie up due to lack of markets. Image Niall Duffy

## 'Worst case scenario' materialises as coronavirus crisis hits fishing industry hard

### Boats tie up, as seafood markets overseas collapse

Last month, the 'worst case scenario' materialised for Ireland's fishermen and women, as the coronavirus hit the fishing industry hard, seeing boats tie up as export markets collapsed.

Following lockdowns in Italy, Spain and France in an effort to control the spread of the virus, markets in Europe were especially hard hit on Monday, March 16.

The reverberations of the closure of all non-essential businesses, including restaurants and cafes, were felt immediately, sending some of Ireland's most important export markets into freefall.

With little or no fish or shellfish getting into Italy or France, a small bit going to Spain, and faced with the reality that a mere two boats from the offshore fleet have the capacity to supply the entire domestic market, Ireland's offshore sector felt the shock immediately.

Faced with little or no export avenues for their fish, all 64 boats managed by the Castletownbere Fishermen's Co-Op were asked to tie up initially for a week beginning the weekend of March 20, with the last of those boats landing early on the morning of March 21.

In a joint statement issued March 25, several of Ireland's largest POs and Co-ops said fisheries are currently "caught

in an extremely precarious economic position as a result of the COVID-19 crisis." The challenge facing the sector was "seismic", they said.

If Ireland's offshore fleet felt the weight of the global pandemic last month, for Ireland's inshore sector things were looking bad even before the European market was hit.

A joint submission sent from the National Inshore Fishermen's Association (NIFA), the National Inshore Fishermen's Organisation (NIFO), and the National Inshore Fisheries Forum (NIFF) to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine on March 12 stated their members were facing "an unprecedented economic crisis."

Without financial support in some shape or form, there were serious concerns for their future viability, they said.

This concern, they said, was driven by the impact "a confluence of events" were having in terms of eroding the resilience of the sector. Among those was four months poor weather, meaning little fishing time, and limited cash flow for many members. Overcapitalisation, they said, was also an issue.

For these fishermen, they said, the financial capacity to deal with extended periods of low or no profitability was limited, or in some cases non-existent.

Though the aforementioned factors made it difficult to gauge the impact the current unfolding crisis in global seafood markets driven by the global pandemic was having on the sector, the indications from Asian markets were poor, they said.

Against a backdrop of reduced catch rates and landings, first sale prices for several species important to the sector had dropped already (i.e. razors, brown crabs, whelks, green crabs, lobster, prawns). Regarding the impact of those falling prices, they said, the most extreme impact would be where members would have to stop fishing.

"As the unfolding crises is unprecedented, there are so many unknowns in terms of the severity of effects, the length of disruption and aftershock in the markets. It would be unrealistic not to consider the worst case scenario, which is that a significant portion of the inshore sector will have to stop fishing completely, indefinitely," they said.

By March 17, the inshore organisations said the worst case scenario outlined in that submission had materialised. The majority of their members, they said, were now tied up indefinitely due to lack of viable markets.

A similar message from the North East Regional Inshore Fisheries Forum (NERIFF) who said the industry had hit crisis

point, in a letter to the Minister and a number of local TDs, dated March 16.

In the letter Barry Faulkner Jnr, NERIFF chair wrote: "Markets are collapsing and with the closure of restaurants and lockdown of many European countries it seems inevitable that boats will be told to stop fishing."

"2020 so far has brought little fortune to fishermen with strong winds and storm after storm. In fact, the last 4 to 5 months have been a particularly bad period for fishing in general."

"Fishermen have not been able to put money aside to cope during a crisis such as this. The government must provide assistance."

Indicating the seriousness of the situation now faced by fishermen, he said, "If the fishing businesses are left to go bankrupt, when the crisis begins to clear there will be no fishing jobs for fishermen to go back to."

With razor fishing being the main inshore fishery in the northeast, many of the fishermen represented by the NERIFF were among the first hit by the effects of the virus. Speaking to *The Skipper*, Barry Faulkner Jnr. said that when the Chinese market closed at the beginning of the year, it hit the razor sector immediately.

While that market was now beginning to show some signs of recovering, the razor fleet is still and will be for some time feeling the effects of COVID-19, he said. Airfreight, he highlighted also, has increased from roughly €1.80/kg to €4.30/kg.

Echoing the effects being felt by razor fishermen, speaking to *The Skipper* Teresa Morrissey, IFA Aquaculture said Ireland's aquaculture sector is also experiencing "severe and unexpected" impacts due to the coronavirus pandemic. Like the catching sector, among the challenges facing the sector are a drastic reduction in demand and increasing transport costs in particular for airfreight prices.

Oyster producers struggling for markets since early January, when trade with China and Hong Kong stopped completely, have been particularly hard hit, she said.

Though in mid-March some oyster producers reported having started back trading with China and Hong Kong, whether those would hold, one way or another between trade and logistics, remained highly uncertain, as does the outlook for the sector more generally, she said.

In terms of supports for the sector in the face of this unprecedented crisis, Minister Creed met with fishing industry representatives to discuss the impact COVID-19 was having on the sector on Friday, March 20.

Following the meeting, he

said, "It is very clear that, as with many other sectors, the fisheries sector is facing very difficult times as its traditional markets both in Asia and now in Europe have been effectively closed."

"The bad weather earlier in the year has resulted in lower than normal catches and therefore both the crew and vessel owners were already in a disadvantaged position."

Regarding options, the Minister said, the main objective was to help support the continuation of fishing and the provision of fish to the market, especially the Irish market. Looking at EU level to support a new support mechanism for the sector that would allow fish to be stored temporarily was also something being considered, he said.

In terms of more general support, on March 24, the Government announced new support measures, which include measures which mean workers and self-employed workers (including fishermen), who have lost their jobs due to the crisis will now receive an enhanced emergency COVID-19 unemployment payment of €350 per week, an increase from €203.

At EU-level, over the past weeks several supports, both general and geared specifically towards the fishing industry have been announced by the European Commission, for further details see page 16, this issue. The Commission says that these are just a start.

These already announced developments have been welcomed by the industry. A spokesperson for NIFA and NIFO said, "The emergency COVID-19 unemployment now of €350 per week combined with the self-employed jobseekers benefit goes a long way in terms of addressing the need for social protection, as do the efforts by the Government with the banks in relation to deferring loan repayments, which was another issue we highlighted."

"Developments at EU level in terms of making EMFF money available to deal with the crisis, while ongoing are also commendable particularly on the part of the efforts Minister Creed. We have been actively working with his department and BIM, via the Inshore Fisheries Forums, in terms of seeking workable solutions to carry us through this crisis"

Similarly, Barry Faulkner Jnr. acknowledged the Department was trying to work with the industry to mitigate the worst of the impacts now facing the fleet. "They have all the information now from Friday's meeting, we'll see what assistance projects they come back to industry with," he said.

## SAVE THE DATE



**SEPT 2020**  
FRIDAY/SATURDAY  
**04-05**<sup>th</sup>  
@ UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK

**YOUR INDUSTRY YOUR SHOW**

[WWW.THESKIPPER.IE](http://WWW.THESKIPPER.IE)



C Fish specialises in converting fish by-products into pet food ingredients and bait

Fresh & Frozen Fishing Baits for the Commercial & Angling Fisherman. *Weekly Deliveries Nationwide*  
**ENQUIRES WELCOME FROM THE UK**

Charlie Vial, Main St, Dunkineely, Co. Donegal, Ireland

Tel: 074 9737254 Mob: 087 2548208

Email: cfish@eircom.net Web: www.cfish.ie

## ATLANTIC MARINE SUPPLIES LTD

DEPARTMENT OF MARINE APPROVED LIFERAFT SERVICE STATION

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <p><b>PRODUCTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LIFERAFTS</li> <li>• LIFEJACKETS</li> <li>• RESCUE BOATS</li> <li>• IMMERSION SUITS</li> <li>• PYROTECHNICS</li> <li>• H.R.U.'S</li> <li>• BOARDING LADDERS</li> </ul> |  | <p><b>SERVICES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LIFERAFT SERVICING</li> <li>• LIFEJACKET SERVICING</li> <li>• IMMERSION SUIT SERVICING</li> <li>• HIRE LIFERAFTS</li> </ul> |
|--|--|---|

Suppliers of full range of approved lifesaving equipment.  
Service of RFD, DSB, Dunlop - Beaufort, Zodiac and Lifeguard equipment

Donegal Road, Killybegs, Co. Donegal.

Phone: 074 9731440 Fax: 074 9731699

After hours; 074 9731332 Email: info@atlanticmarine.ie

## UNION CHANDLERY

Service to Seafarers since 1977



**10% off All Stern Gear**  
**incl. Propellers, Shafts, Couplings and Cutlass bearings**

23 Doughcloyne Industrial Estate, Sarsfield Road, Cork  
[www.unionchandlery.ie](http://www.unionchandlery.ie) Tel 00353 21 4554334

# Fishermen blockade Dingle Pier



Fishermen blockading Dingle pier. Image courtesy of Seán Mac an tSíthigh

Last month, fishermen blockaded the pier in Dingle to prevent foreign-flagged vessels from landing, amidst fears of the spread of coronavirus in the town by crews of foreign-registered and flagged vessels. Similar action was, subsequently, threatened by fishermen in Castletownbere.

On Monday, March 23, to prevent foreign-flagged vessels from landing some thirty fishermen used their vehicles to block entry to Dingle pier by Spanish trucks waiting to transport fish to the continent.

Speaking to *The Skipper* fishermen on the pier in Dingle said that while they would allow trucks down with oil to enable the vessels to refuel, they would not be allowing landings. They would also, they said, prevent crews off those vessels from entering the town. "They will have to turn around and land at their home ports," they said.

Following their actions, two French-flagged vessels scheduled to land at the pier were forced to alter their plans and appeared

to reroute for Castletownbere. However, fishermen in 'Ireland's premier whitefish port' were quick to mobilise in response, threatening to take similar action if the vessels attempted to land there. The two vessels subsequently diverted south.

Raising concerns about the possible threat posed by the vessels and their crews in relation to the spread of the coronavirus, both groups of fishermen say their actions were motivated by a concern for the health of their communities, in the context of the current pandemic and the guidance that appears to apply to all other aspects of life in this context in terms of preventing the spread of the virus.

Crews from foreign-flagged vessels, said the fishermen in Dingle, when they landed, were wandering around the town and failing to adhere to social distancing guidelines. Large groups of people coming in from countries already highly contaminated by the virus, without self-isolating as per the Government's guidance to people

coming in from overseas, was a huge worry for people in a small town, they said.

Similarly, in Castletownbere the fishermen stressed that the issue was not about landings per se, but with the unrestricted access of up to 300 foreign crewmen to the West Cork town, which has a population of less than 1000, during an ongoing and worsening pandemic.

Driving home their concerns further, the fishermen said also that up to thirty articulated lorries enter Castletownbere every week to transport fish to the continent without, as they see it, adequate screening. Speaking to *The Skipper*, they said, "We have to protect our community here too."

According to the Department of Health, screening at ports is not currently recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO) or the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).

Though currently individuals entering the country—apart from those coming from Northern Ireland—are required by the Government to restrict their movements for 14 days, these restrictions do not apply to essential supply chain workers, among them hauliers and maritime staff, who are not showing symptoms.

All foreign-registered vessels, including fishing vessels, must, however, as per the recently amended Marine Notice No 06 of 2020, submit a Maritime Declaration of Health and updated crew list in advance of arriving into an Irish Port.

Fishermen in Dingle, however, allege Marine Notice No 06 of 2020 is not being adhered to and have called for HSE officials to be placed at Irish ports to inspect foreign-flagged vessels on landing,

to ensure they are complying in full with their obligations under the Notice.

It is understood that since Monday (Mach 23) there have been negotiations between fishermen in Dingle and the Department relating to the matter.

On March 25, following a statement from the Minister condemning the blockades, the Department sent out "a dedicated information notice setting out the appropriate discharge practices for all fish landings, in compliance with Marine Notice No 6 of 2020, regarding Covid-19 protective measures" to all industry and Harbour Masters.

According to the information note, which sets out new guidelines for all landings into Irish Fishery Harbour Centres, all discharge practices in Irish Fishery Harbour Centres will be in full compliance with Marine Notice 6 of 2020 (page 10, this issue).

In addition, there will be a separate designated landing zone assigned to all incoming vessels by the Harbour Master/Harbour staff. All activity during the discharge of the vessel will be carried out within this designated area. And all crew will remain in this area during landing.

The Harbour will continue to provide Water/Electricity to all vessels landing, and local suppliers will continue to provide any provisions vessels may require. Provisions such as fuel, groceries etc. will be delivered into the designated area.

Hauliers will be directed by Harbour staff into the designated area. Full washing facilities will continue to be available to all crew and hauliers.

# OBITUARIES

## JOHN ROONEY



John Rooney

John Rooney of Kilkeel, founder and managing director of Rooney Fish sadly passed away aged 68 on March 4 after a long illness.

Widely respected for his contribution to the seafood industry in Northern Ireland, the Dublin born, Kilkeel-based entrepreneur was well known for his achievements in developing Rooney Fish along with his wife Rosemary and later his son Andrew into one of the most successful seafood processing

and exporting businesses in Northern Ireland.

Mr Rooney's Requiem Mass took place on Saturday, March 7 in St Colman's Church Massforth, with burial afterwards in the adjoining cemetery. He is survived by Rosemary, Andrew, his daughter Johanne and their children.

All of us here at *The Skipper* would like to express our deepest condolences to Mr Rooney's wife Rosemary, son Andrew, daughter Johanne, daughter-in-law Helen, son-in-law Declan, grandchildren Blaine, Matthew, Tiernan, Evarose, and Finlay, his brothers, sisters and many friends.

*May he rest in peace.*

## SYLVIE MURPHY (NÉE CORLAY)

A strong link between Irish and French fishermen was broken last month, with the sad

news of the passing of Sylvie Murphy, late of Warrenpoint, Co Down, formerly of Dunmore East, Co Waterford and Etel, Brittany, France, who died peacefully in her sleep on March 3 following a short illness.

The daughter of a French fisherman, Sylvie was well known around the coast on account of her trojan work helping French fishermen deal with the Irish authorities and conversely aiding Irish fishermen who encountered difficulties in France – work which earned her the title of Honorary French Consul in charge of Maritime Affairs in Ireland.

A Memorial Service for Sylvie's life took place in Kilbroney Parish Church, Rostrevor on Thursday, March 5, followed by removal to Dunmore East for Funeral Mass on Saturday, March 7 to Holy Cross Church, Killea, before private cremation.

Sylvie is predeceased by her grandson Kylian. Deeply loved and mourned by Jim, Joeify, her children Alain, Nathalie and David, grandchildren, Mia, Julia, Declan, Cian and Olivia Sylvie, daughters-in-law Kathy and Resa, son-in-law Barry, her mother Annette, sisters Juliane, Helene and brother Alain in France.

*The Skipper* team would like to express their deepest condolences to Sylvie's family, extended family and many friends around the coasts of both Ireland and France. Her loss will be hugely felt by both the Irish and French fishing communities.

*Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam.*



Sylvie Murphy



Large tyre trawled up and landed in Castletownbere last month by Fishing for Litter member vessel Alannah Riley. L-R: Skipper Patrick Diver and owner Nealie Minehane. Image: Niall Duffy

**Bere Island Boatyard Ltd**  
Ballinakilla, Bere Island, Beara, Co.Cork P75 XC94

Dock : 44m (L) x 15m (W) x 6.5m (Depth)

Contact  
Web : [www.biby.com](http://www.biby.com)  
E-mail : [bereislandboatyard@gmail.com](mailto:bereislandboatyard@gmail.com)  
Phone : 0035 27 75975  
Mobile : 086 2766564

**SUPPORTING IRISH FISHING COMMUNITIES**

www.last.ie

**HELP US TO HELP OTHERS. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT.**

Contact  
info@last.ie | www.last.ie

**CHPM**  
PRECISION & MARINE ENGINEERING

- Engineering Services
  - Marine Engines
  - Pumps and Impellers
  - Gearboxes
  - Commercial Fishing Equipment
  - Marine Oil, Lubricants & Greases

Engineering Facilities

- 6 acre secure site
- 20 mins from Dunmore East Quay
- Access to Syncrolift at Dunmore East
- 17,500 sq foot fully equipped workshop
- Welders, fabricators, mechanics, engineers and well equipped stores, on site

Engineering Services

- Laser shaft alignment services
- Vessel Supply
- Engine & Gearbox repairs & overhauls
- New Engines supply and installation services

Ireland's Main Dealer

**DOOSAN** **Baudouin** **Sole Diesel**

Unit 16 Cassina Avenue, Airport Business Park, Waterford  
T: 051 306017 E: sales@chpm.ie

# Inshore organisations join other industry representatives in condemning blockades

On March 25th, the National Inshore Fisheries Forum (NIFF), National Inshore Fishermen's Association (NIFA) and the National Inshore Fishermen's Organisation's (NIFO) joined a number of Ireland's largest fishing organisations in condemning the blockades of Dingle and Castletownbere

(pages 6-7, this issue). In a joint statement the inshore groups said that they "unequivocally condemn the recent blockades". They went on to state: "We believe that the action was nothing but damaging to the Irish Seafood Industry as a whole, including the Inshore sector, which are acutely

dependant on export markets in both Spain and France, and should not be repeated. "Recently announced measures by DAFM, regarding Covid-19 related restrictions in the six national fishery harbours, should address any concerns that people may have had. "At a time of a global Pandemic, and a global

economic crisis for the Seafood Industry, solidarity with our fellow Europeans is what's required". The inshore organisations concluded by stating, "Any action to disrupt food supply chains during this crisis are completely unacceptable and can only be condemned in the strongest possible terms."

## Statement from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine on coronavirus

### Fishermen entitled to COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment

On March 13th, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) released a statement stating that DAFM is working closely with the Department of Health and with other Departments, as part of a whole of Government response to Covid-19. As part of that, self-employed fishermen will be entitled to the emergency COVID-19 Pandemic Employment Payment, recently increased to €350 per week.

According to the statement, the Department will also be implementing its own business continuity plan to maintain essential services, which means the Department is taking all of the precautions necessary to protect its staff and clients, but remaining open for business, prioritising the delivery of essential services to farmers, fishermen and the food and forestry sectors.

In this regard, the Department says it is taking necessary steps to ensure producers and

processors can continue to operate effectively and keep supply lines open, and this commitment, it says, extends to ensuring that the systems and infrastructure on which its sectors depend on a daily basis, are operating and functional.

Keeping food and other processing facilities operational, and ensuring fishermen can continue to land fish and place them on the market, are among the critical priorities for the Department, it says. In many instances these activities, says DAFM, depend on the Department's ability to carry out its regulatory and inspection functions.

There is no reason for consumers to be concerned about continuity of supply of Irish food and drinks, says DAFM. There are no food safety implications arising from COVID-19, and there is no evidence that the virus can be spread through food products.

The Department states that in

the longer term, there may be significant economic impacts for Irish business, including the agri-food sector, arising from reduced demand in key markets around the world.

In this regard, a range of supports for businesses have already been announced by the Government and are available at <https://dbei.gov.ie/en/>, including the SBCI Covid-19 Working Capital Loan Scheme, which is co-funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. This loan scheme will make working capital available to impacted SMEs, including food businesses.

Fishermen, along with other workers who are required to self-isolate, or are diagnosed with COVID-19, will be eligible for social welfare support. See: <https://bit.ly/2WHmbQp>

Details of the emergency COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment—which is available to all employees and those self-employed, including in the fishing industry, who

have lost their job due to the coronavirus pandemic—can be found at: <https://bit.ly/covidunemployment>

Minister Creed stated, “I am deeply conscious of the impact of the Government's necessary response to Covid-19. The measures announced are essential, and we need all citizens to assist in containing the threat and spread of the virus. I urge you all to follow the current advice and further advice that will come from Government, the Chief Medical Officer in the Department of Health and the HSE.

“This is a national public health crisis, and it is critically important that the Government response is co-ordinated through the Department of Health and the HSE. However, my Department and I will remain in very close contact with agri-food stakeholders as the situation develops. As part of this effort, my Department will be providing assistance to the HSE when requested.”

## Fishing representatives meet with Minister Creed to discuss impact of COVID-19 on the fleet and processors

### Minister says main focus at this point is to continue supply

On Friday, March 20th, the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Michael Creed T.D., met by teleconference all the main representative groups for fishing, representing both the offshore and inshore fleet, and processors.

At the meeting, there was a full review of the particular challenges facing the fisheries sector, with the main focus at this point, according to the Minister, being to continue the supply of food.

In a statement released following the meeting, Minister Creed said, “I had a constructive meeting with representatives of the fisheries sector dealing with the unprecedented challenge as a result of COVID 19.

“It is very clear that, as with many other sectors, the fisheries sector is facing very difficult times as its traditional markets both in Asia and now in Europe have been effectively closed.

“The bad weather earlier in the year has resulted in lower than normal catches and therefore both the crew and vessel owners were already in a disadvantaged

position.”

At the meeting fishing representatives gave their input, drawing on their wide range of knowledge and experience, in reviewing possible options that would help support the continuation of fishing and the provision of fish to the market, in particular the Irish market.

Minister Creed explained, “The main focus of this meeting was to discuss and understand the situation on the ground and to consider possible measures that would allow fishing to continue so that this important source of food would contribute to keeping food on the tables of our citizens, keeping those working in the sector in their jobs and sustaining, where possible, economic activity within the sector.

“The measures examined included finding additional means to bring Irish whitefish to the Irish market and the potential to use temporary storage of fish.”

In terms of diverting whitefish to the home market, this will involve working with processors to adjust supply to the home market and

replace product previously prepared for the export market. In that regard, the Minister has asked BIM to work with his Department and industry and provide practical support for the necessary changes.

Minister Creed also wrote to Commissioner Sinkevicius on Monday last seeking changes in EU regulation that would support the sector during this crisis. The EU Commission, according to the Minister's statement, has been considering this during the week.

Minister Creed stated “I consider that we need to give further consideration at EU level to introduce a new support mechanism for the sector that will allow fish to be stored on a temporary basis and be quickly re-introduced onto the market. I am pleased that the EU Commission has indicated a willingness to consider this further.”

The Minister has also asked the Commissioner to consider the question of EU aid to operators to cease fishing on a temporary basis during this crisis. The Minister noted that the measures put in place by the Government for both

employers and employees including the extension of a payment holiday in respect of mortgages and the payment to job seekers will also be available to the fishing sector and to owners and crew of fishing vessels.

As discussed at the meeting, the Minister is not proposing that a tie-up scheme is introduced at this time, as the main focus at this point is to work to continue to support the supply of food. In line with this, normal service is continuing at the six State-owned Fishery Harbour Centres at Castletownbere, Dunmore East, Howth, Killybegs, Dingle and Rossaveal.

Finally, Minister Creed said, “It was clear to me that the fishing sector shares the concerns of every citizen and is committed to mitigating the health risk for all including sectoral workers.

“I appreciate that as food suppliers they have a special role and are committed to doing their part during these difficult times. The Government is fully appreciative of this considerable effort and I will provide necessary supports to the sector over the coming period.”

## Fishing organisations condemn port blockades

### Stringent criteria being met to safeguard public health while maintaining seafood supply



Spanish trucks due to collect fish destined for Europe wait it out, as fishermen blockaded the pier in Dingle last month. Image courtesy of Seán Mac an tSíthigh

Recent port blockades in Dingle and Castletownbere preventing access to fishing trawlers have been condemned by seven of the largest fishing organisations in the country as “unnecessary, alarmist and without any reasonable nor rational foundation”.

The organisations are, namely: Irish Fish Producers Organisation (IFPO), Irish South and East Fish Producers Organisation (ISEFPO), Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation (KFO), Castletownbere Fishermen's Co-Op, Clogherhead Fishermen's Co-Op, Galway and Aran Fishermen's Co-Op and Foyle Fishermen's Co-Op.

The management of the organisations in question said that the blockades preventing French and Spanish vessels from offloading their catch would only damage the Irish industry in the long run and sought to reassure the wider public that extremely strict and enhanced conditions apply

with regard to movement of crew in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Department of Transport, they highlighted, has introduced emergency measures for all vessels entering Irish ports whereby a “Maritime Declaration of Health” must be furnished ahead of arrival. The authorities may refuse entry in case of incomplete reporting.

This, in tandem with the already existing HSE guidelines and Government restrictions which came into effect at midnight on March 24th mean that the fishing industry has stepped up to the plate, not just in terms of restricting the spread of COVID-19 but ensuring supplies of food remain in place, they said.

The organisations reiterated their unequivocal commitment to do everything in their power to play their part in curtailing the spread of COVID-19 and underlined the fact that there is now effectively a double-layer

of protection in place regarding both Irish and foreign trawlers entering Irish ports. In addition to enhanced surveillance, the concerns raised by those protesting this week had already been taken on board, they said.

However, juxtaposed with that obligation to protect human health is the need to maintain a supply of seafood to both the Irish and European markets and preventing trawler access to Irish ports means a critical food supply is put in jeopardy, they argued.

The organisations emphasised that they enjoyed cordial and professionally-sound working relationships with their French and Spanish counterparts as well as the wider European industry but protests such as those which had taken place in Dingle and Castletownbere were not in anyone's interests and should not be repeated.

Finally, they stated that fisheries are caught in an extremely precarious economic position as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. They said they are working with the Irish Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, the European Commission as well as their sister organisations at European level in examining a number of potential solutions to the seismic challenge facing the sector.

The Minister for Agriculture Food & Marine, Michael Creed T.D., subsequently welcomed the

statement on behalf of seven of the largest Fishing Organisations from across the Country, outlining the critical importance of maintaining the functioning of EU Fisheries at this time, guided by the advice of medical professionals in EU public health authorities.

Commenting on the statement, the Minister said, “In responding to the COVID 19 crisis, Government action has been informed by the primacy of the need to protect public health, guided by the advice of medical professionals in our public health authorities. It is critically important that all of our actions continue to take place on this basis.

“Such advice does not extend to the selective closure of parts of the single market that are critical to maintaining the food supply chain in Ireland and elsewhere in the European Union. It is vital for all of us at this time to keep critical food supply lines, such as fishing activity, open and functioning through this period. I welcome the commitment of Ireland's Fishery Organisations to this endeavour.”

The Department of Agriculture Food & Marine have prepared a dedicated Information Notice setting out the appropriate discharge practices for all fish landings, in compliance with Marine Notice No 6, regarding Covid-19 protective measures. This has been circulated to all industry and Harbour Masters.



An Roinn Iompair,  
Turasóireachta agus Spóirt  
Department of Transport,  
Tourism and Sport

## Watch Officer in the Irish Coast Guard (IRCG)

The Irish Coast Guard, a Division of the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport has vacancies for Watch Officers at its three Marine Rescue Coordination Centres in Dublin, Malin Head, Co Donegal and Valentia, Co Kerry. The IRCG provides a nationwide maritime emergency service as well as a variety of services to shipping and other government agencies.

Watch Officers are responsible for watch-keeping on the emergency frequencies and are required to act as Marine Alert, Notification and/or Search and Rescue Mission Co-ordination Officers. They also process marine communication traffic and respond to ship casualty, pollution incidents, vessel traffic monitoring and co-ordination of Coast Guard helicopter operations.

 publicjobs.ie An tSeirbhís um Cheapacháin Phoiblí  
Public Appointments Service

THE CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS IS  
THURSDAY 30TH APRIL 2020

Full details on this role and the eligibility requirements are available on  
[www.publicjobs.ie](http://www.publicjobs.ie)

We are committed to a policy of equal opportunity and encourage applications under all nine grounds of the Employment Equality Act.

Cuir fear fáilte roimh chomhfhearas i nGaeilge



# PERICLES is putting Ireland's coastal heritage on the map

Ireland's unique seascapes and historically rich coastlines are being highlighted by Queen's University Belfast in a major international coastal and maritime heritage project.

Preserving and Sustainably Governing Cultural Heritage and Landscapes in European Coastal and Maritime Regions (PERICLES) is an EU-funded research and innovation project. The overall aim of the project is to develop a comprehensive framework to understand, preserve and make use of our maritime heritage for societal good.

At the heart of PERICLES is an online portal to map the tangible and intangible heritage of Europe's coastal regions and seas. As well as being a catalogue of our coastal and maritime cultural heritage assets, the portal will have many practical applications, including identifying heritage at risk, helping to integrate heritage into marine plans, and as a trigger for identifying different



Portal Image Europe

heritage narratives and values.

Launching the portal as a wide-scale citizen science venture, the PERICLES team hope to uncover hidden heritage and capture heritage values that haven't been widely documented before. In this way, the future of Ireland's coastal

and maritime heritage can be informed by the needs and values of those to whom the heritage ultimately belongs.

Contributions to the map are invited from the public, other stakeholders and any interested parties. To access the portal and map your heritage, simply go to <https://mapyourheritage.eu>, select the Scotland-Ireland region and click on 'Add Your Data' from the options on the panel on the right of the screen.

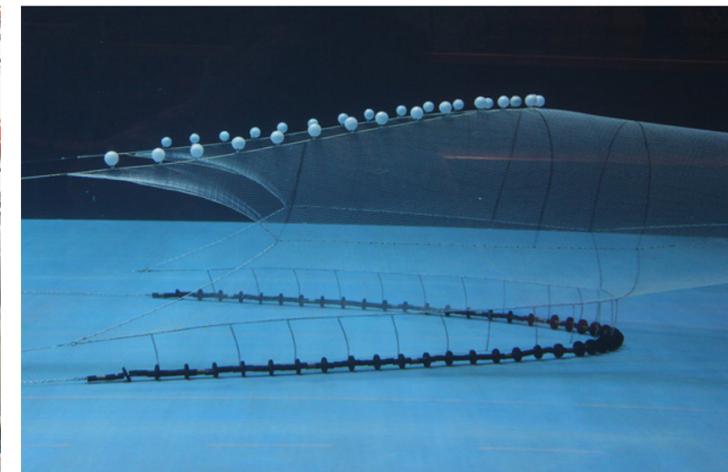
The PERICLES team at Queen's University Belfast would also be interested to hear from any groups wishing to collaborate with them using the portal, or who can help promote it anywhere in Ireland.

*For more information about the project and the portal please visit the website [www.pericles-heritage.eu](http://www.pericles-heritage.eu) or contact Dr Laura Ferguson ([L.Ferguson@qub.ac.uk](mailto:L.Ferguson@qub.ac.uk)) or Dr Wesley Flannery ([w.flannery@qub.ac.uk](mailto:w.flannery@qub.ac.uk)).*

# Trawl through BIM guide on solutions to reduce unwanted catches



Industry and BIM staff working on trawl models



The raised fishing line

**By Dr Ronán Cosgrove,** Fisheries Conservation Section, BIM

BIM recently produced an updated guide on technical solutions to reduce unwanted catches. Developed in collaboration with the Irish Fishing Industry, the document summarises the results of gear trials and survivability studies which assist with the landing obligation and boost fisheries sustainability by decreasing juvenile, over-quota and non-target catches in demersal trawl fisheries.

The landing obligation is primarily implemented through discard plans which specify detailed requirements for demersal fisheries in North-Western waters. These include survivability and de minimis exemptions which permit some continued discarding, and gear measures that aim to avoid unwanted catches during fishing. New gear measures are also implemented through other legislation, such as remedial measures under the annual EU Regulation on fishing opportunities.

The raised fishing line is one such measure. Vessels whose catches consist of at least 20%

haddock will be required to use this gear in the Celtic Sea from the 1st June. Tested and developed in Ireland through a series of gear trials and a flume tank workshop, the gear substantially reduces cod catches resulting in avoidance of an area closure under remedial measures for cod in the Celtic Sea.

Other updates include an assessment of a 120 mm codend in the Celtic Sea leading to its inclusion in the 2020 discard plan, and sole and plaice survivability studies which will be used to apply for exemptions for these species.

The BIM Fisheries Conservation team consists of myself, Daragh

Browne, Matthew McHugh and Martin Oliver. We have a busy year ahead on new gear trials and studies to deal with changing regulatory requirements. We can always find time, however, to lend a hand to vessels and crews interested in testing, tailoring and embedding appropriate gear modifications into their fisheries operations. Contact us at [geartrials@bim.ie](mailto:geartrials@bim.ie) or 091 564318 for further information.

*The new guide and detailed studies on reducing unwanted catches are available at [www.bim.ie/our-publications/fisheries](http://www.bim.ie/our-publications/fisheries)*

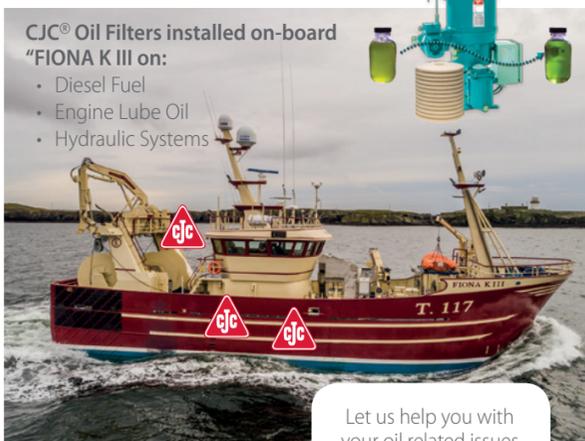
# Engine reliability



Avoid dirty diesel tanks

Bacteria growth - risk of blockage of in-line filters

Save your injectors



CJC® Oil Filters installed on-board "FIONA K III on:

- Diesel Fuel
- Engine Lube Oil
- Hydraulic Systems

Let us help you with your oil related issues

C.C.JENSEN Ireland  
086 82 71 508 - [www.ccjensen.ie](http://www.ccjensen.ie) - [jfp@ccj.dk](mailto:jfp@ccj.dk)

CONTACT  
Jan Foged



# BIM works with aquaculture groups to Improve Navigation and Safety for Marine Users

To help simplify and improve local navigation markings for the safety of all marine users, Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM), in association with the Commissioners of Irish Lights (CIL) last month (Thursday, 27 February) launched a new standard operating procedure.

BIM has been working with members of the aquaculture industry around the coast to install simplified navigation marking systems that provide an effective visual guide for anyone navigating a bay or harbour.

Reducing the overall visual impact of the markers and simplifying the boundaries for other users is the aim of Special Unified Marking Schemes (SUMS) by getting all aquaculture producers in an area to incorporate their sites boundary marks into one marking scheme.

The standard operating procedure for the unified marking systems clearly outlines the steps local producers need to take to engage with the Scheme. Previously each farm in a bay or harbour had its own marks indicating the boundaries of the site, often resulting in a large amount of markings, making navigation more difficult.

Unifying the sites under one scheme has the dual advantage of improving navigation of the harbour and providing efficiencies for the fish farmers. In addition, the marks deployed are of a much higher standard, have a longer lifespan and work in all types of weather.

Speaking at the launch of the new operating procedure, Jim O'Toole,

chief executive, BIM said, "Getting aquaculture producers to work together locally with schemes such as the Special Unified Marking Systems pays dividends for all concerned. "It highlights their commitment to working together in harmony with the local environment and other marine users, putting safety at the centre of what they do.

"An example of where SUMS has made a remarkable difference is Dungarvan Harbour. Working together we have reduced the number of markers to 10 poles and 11 small buoys, as opposed to the original proposed 160 poles, drastically reducing the visual impact and simplifying things for everyone."

Yvonne Shields O'Connor, CEO, Irish Lights said, "The launch of the Special Unified Marking Scheme with BIM marks a positive step change in delivering improved navigation and safety in areas of aquaculture activity.

"Irish Lights is delighted to support this initiative, which ensures the safe and efficient marking of zones to international standards, resulting in a positive impact on the local environment".

To begin engaging with the Scheme, producers can contact their local BIM officer who will work with them to survey the production area. Consultation then takes place with the Commissioner of Irish Lights and the Marine Survey office to determine the location and specification of markers. Once approved, BIM will work with local farmers to ensure that the new markers will be produced and installed at the approved locations.

The project is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union under Ireland's European Maritime & Fisheries Fund Operational Programme for the seafood sector.

For more details or to download a copy of the full Special Unified Marking Systems standard operating procedure, please go to [www.bim.ie/our-publications/aquaculture/](http://www.bim.ie/our-publications/aquaculture/)



To help simplify and improve local navigation markings for the safety of all marine users, Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM), Ireland's Seafood Development Agency, in association with the Commissioners of Irish Lights (CIL) last month launched a new standard operating procedure for implementing Special Unified Marking Schemes (SUMS) in areas of aquaculture, to reduce the overall visual impact of markers and to simplify boundaries. Pictured at the launch are: L-r: Joanne Gaffney, Regional Environmental Officer, BIM, Yvonne Shields O'Connor, CEO, Irish Lights, Jim O'Toole, CEO, BIM and Captain Catriona Dowling, Navigation Services Manager, Irish Lights

# Irish South and West's response to Dingle blockade

Following events West last month, which saw fishermen blockade the pier in Dingle and threaten similar action in Castletownbere, the CEO of the Irish South and West Fish Producers' Organisation has stated the fishermen's actions were motivated by fear. Communication, he said, would be key to solving the conflict.

In a statement, Mr Patrick Murphy said, "A coastal community's fear from inaction, following the Irish South and West raising these concerns in recent days, has resulted in the worst possible reaction, the blockading of the small coastal port of Dingle in County Kerry."

Mr Murphy went on to say that at a moment when "we as Europeans should be working together" fear had overtaken compassion. And conflict, he said, is the result.

"The irony," said Mr Murphy, "is we as communities are bombarded with warning after warning to isolate, keep our distance and act in our neighbour's interest to stop the spread of this killer virus to our most vulnerable in our society."

"These coastal communities were not listened to and sadly have decided to act themselves in their belief they are doing right by their old and sick."

"However, we must remember Spanish people depend on this fish and have been given under the 2013 Common fishery Policy the right to enter our EEZ to catch the shared resource of fish stocks that inhabit our waters."

In terms of that right, Mr Murphy continued: "Many feel that the policy that has remained the same for 40 years and is not fair to Ireland with a poor share in many Demersal stocks such as Hake, Monk and Haddock, and believe it is not shared proportionately to reflect the fishing communities of Ireland who have seen their fleet decimated in decommissioning schemes where island communities, small ports and harbours see their boats and fishermen disappearing before their eyes."

Mr Murphy said further that it was "understandable" in the current context whereby Irish vessels currently have no markets in Spain or France and boats are tied up, that seeing Spanish and French "fishing flat out and landing in our ports" would lead to tensions.

However, Mr Murphy said he felt that the conflict could be resolved via "communication and a lot of understanding".



Patrick Murphy  
"We are all rightly concerned not only for our future but our present and this is a time for leadership and mediation to address the concerns of these frightened communities," he said.

# 2020 Irish Fisheries Management Chart Launched

La Tene Maps and Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) have launched the annual edition of the Irish Fisheries Management Chart. The sheet is available in both print and digital format and shows the Irish 200nm fishing zone and the constraints on the fishing industry. The sheet has many sub-maps and charts to illustrate the Irish fishing quotas, technical conservation measures and

highlight specific closures within the Irish fishing zone. This map has been published annually by La Tene Maps for the last 10 years.

The map is available in printed form from BIM Fisheries Division ( PO Box 12, Crofton Rd., Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland) and can be downloaded from the BIM website at: <http://www.bim.ie/media/bim/content/>

downloads/BIM-fisheries-management-chart-2020.pdf

Speaking on the release of the new map John Coleman, Chief Executive of La Tene Maps said. "With the spread of the Covid-19 virus and the cancellation or postponement of many conferences and exhibitions La Tene Maps hopes that many of its forthcoming maps will also be available for download as well as in traditional print format"

**Fisheries Management 2020**

The chart includes several key sections:
 

- North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission Regulatory Areas & Fishery Management Regions:** Shows the geographical context of Ireland's fishing zone.
- 6-12 Mile Zone Fishing Rights:** Details fishing rights in the coastal zone.
- FISHING EFFORT:** Provides data on fishing effort across different zones.
- Nephrops Functional Units:** Details regulations for Nephrops fishing.
- Mackerel Restrictions:** Lists specific restrictions for mackerel.
- Remedial Measures for Cod and Whiting in the Celtic Sea:** Details measures for these species.
- Technical Conservation Measures:** Includes various technical measures for different species.
- Quota Tables:** Provides detailed tables for various fish species, including quotas and landing obligations.

2020 Fisheries Management Chart has been launched

# Marine Notice No.06 of 2020: Covid-19 Maritime Declarations of Health

The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport has been requested to publicise amended instructions for harbour masters, shipping agents, ship-owners/operators, including ferry companies, fishing vessels and master(s) from the Health Service Executive (HSE) on the submission of Maritime

Declarations of Health. Due to the current Covid-19 (2019-nCoV infection) crisis the following measures are required for ships entering Irish ports:

Masters are required to complete and submit a "Maritime Declaration of Health" (MDoH) for all ships arriving in Ireland via Safe Seas Ireland. Masters are also

required to submit an updated Crew List and Passenger List (for Passenger Ships), via SafeSeasIreland.

This information must be submitted whether or not there is a suspected case on-board. Where a Ship-owner, Fishing Vessel Owner, Agent, Shipmaster, Skipper, Fisher, Yachtsman or Seafarer is not registered on Safe Seas Ireland, the Maritime Declaration of Health and Crew/passenger list shall, if required in accordance with MN 06 of 2020, be submitted to the local Environmental Health Office.

Contact details of the local Environmental Health Office are to be requested from the Harbour Master. Where the port has no Harbour Master, contact details of the closest Environment Health Service Office are to be requested from nearest port with a Harbour Master.

The MDoH must be completed and submitted no more than 24 hours before arrival, in the instance where there are zero cases suspected on board. Where the health

status of anyone on-board changes after submission of a MDoH, an updated MDoH shall be submitted no later than 4 hours before arrival.

The following documents are to be completed:

- 1) Maritime Declaration of Health – As per International Health Regulations 2005, Annex 8 model 2.
- 2) Crew list and Passenger List.

Masters are advised that ships will be under enhanced surveillance and the ship entry may be refused in case of incomplete reporting and are advised to contact their Shipping Agent and the Harbour Masters for further information and all practical purpose

Full details of the updated requirements can be found at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/e762fd-marine-notice/>

# NEWS in brief

**SeaFest Cancelled**

In light of the rapidly evolving situation and public health measures due to the coronavirus, a decision has been taken to cancel SeaFest, Ireland's National Marine Festival, which was due to take place in May, 15 - 17 2020 in Cork.

The decision was taken to ensure the health and wellbeing of both exhibitors and visitors at the event, which, it has been announced, will take place as normal again in 2021.

European Maritime Day, which was scheduled to take place in Cork to coincide with SeaFest is being deferred and new dates are currently being considered.

**Gannet Fishmongers goes 100 per cent Irish**

In light of the devastating impact the corona crisis is having on the fishing industry, Gannet Fishmongers has vowed to go 100 per cent Irish so as to support Irish fishermen and women.

With European fish markets collapsing, the objective is to maintain demand at home and keep Irish boats fishing. Every kg of Irish fish sold helps do that, and so Gannet Fishmongers have vowed to stop fish imports for the time being. Has anyone else joined them? Are there similar initiatives being implemented around the coast?

If so, we would love to hear of any positive initiatives around the country geared at supporting Irish fishermen and women during this crisis. To fill us in you can email: [editorial@maramedia.ie](mailto:editorial@maramedia.ie)

**R115 airlifts two fishermen off Dutch supertrawler Zeeland**

On the morning of March 6, the Irish Coast Guard's Rescue 115 was called to assist two seriously injured crewmen from the Dutch supertrawler, Zeeland which was fishing some 170 nautical miles west of Loop Head.

With Storm Force 8 winds preventing dispatch, the decision was taken to bring the supertrawler closer to the Irish coast to allow R115 make a shorter journey and approach in better weather conditions. The Zeeland was just approaching the mouth of the Shannon Estuary when R115 took off to meet the vessel.

On reaching the scene just south of Loop Head, Rescue 115's winchman/paramedic was lowered onto the vessel's deck. Both injured crew were subsequently assessed and treated on the vessel before being airlifted to University Hospital Limerick.

**MCM Insurance**  
MCM Insurance Brokers Limited - Specialist broker to the Irish fishing sector.

Contact our experts:  
Ballina office on - 096 72977

MCM Insurance Brokers Ltd. are regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland

## MORE LIGHT, LESS BYCATCH



View from one of the Queen scallop fishing vessels during the bycatch reduction experiment. Vessels fish parallel to one another so that catch comparisons can be made. (Credit: Lucy K Southworth)

### New study finds illuminated square mesh panels can reduce bycatch of certain species

By LORNA SIGGINS

Captured fish like illuminated exits, and new research has shown that this could help to reduce unwanted bycatch.

A study published in the *Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom* journal has found that use of artificial light with square mesh panels can manipulate fish behaviour and physiology to great effect.

The study compared two types of square mesh panels fitted to otter trawls – one installed with light emitting diodes (LEDs),

and one without.

Lead author of the study, Lucy K Southworth of Bangor University's School of Ocean Sciences in Wales, points out that this is not the first research to use lights, but notes that it is a quite recent idea.

The study took place from June to August 2017 in two commercial fishing grounds off the Isle of Man known as the "Targets" and "Chickens".

Two 14 metre vessels, *Two Girls* and *Our Sarah Jane*, were fitted with a "treatment" and a "control" net which were interchanged between the two after every second day.

A total of 116 tows—58

paired—took place across the two sites, with the "Targets" being a shallower fishing area at around 29 to 40 metre depths and with the highest ambient light levels.

The lowest ambient light levels were in the deeper waters of the "Chickens".

Overall, a total of 9293 bycatch individuals were caught, including flatfish, rays, gadoids, crustaceans and shark, and some 45 per cent were EU quota species.

The weight per unit area of all bycatch species caught in the modified nets, fitted with lights, was lower compared with the traditional "control" nets, and there were no significant losses of the target Queen scallop catch.

As the paper explains, the elimination of unwanted catch in mixed species fisheries to comply with landing obligations is "technically challenging, given the complexity of fish behaviour within nets".

"Most approaches to date have employed technologies that modify the nets themselves or use physical sorting grids within the gear," it states.

A study published in 2015 which was conducted in the Pacific off the US west coast tested use of artificial light to reduce bycatch of eulachon or candlefish in ocean shrimp

trawls. The eulachon is a threatened species which is found along the US Pacific coast from northern California to Alaska.

Fisheries biologists Robert Hannah and Stephen Jones of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Mark Lomeli of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries used a twin-rigged shrimp trawler for their trials.

The vessel was fitted with ten battery-powered green LEDs at the mouth of one net, tying them to the "footrope" on its bottom side. The other net was unlit.

After one tow, the catch from each net was emptied into a divided hopper and the crew was surprised by the results.

The catch from the unlit net included lots of eulachon, flatfish and other bycatch with the pink shrimp. The catch from the LED-lit net was virtually all shrimp.

The Oregon biologists concluded that the precise cause of artificial light influencing bycatch reduction was "unknown".

However, they noted that "in both experiments the addition of artificial light appears to have greatly increased the passage of fishes through restricted spaces...that they typically would not pass through as readily under normal seafloor ambient light conditions".

Another study conducted off Peru and published in *The Royal Society* journal in 2018 found that LEDs can help reduce bycatch for lots of different species, such as seabirds, and can be applied to gear other than trawls, such as gillnets.

A further study published in the *ICES Journal of Marine Science* that same year in a Nephrops fishery found that species can be separated within the trawl based on different responses to light stimuli (as in negative or positive) and their swimming behaviour.

Southworth's paper explains how differences were evaluated in catch retained in a standard otter trawl, relative to the same gear fitted with a square mesh panel, or a square mesh panel fitted with LEDs.

"We found that the selectivity of the gear differed depending on water depth," she explains.

"When using a square mesh panel in shallow depths of 29–40 metres, the unwanted bycatch of whiting and haddock was reduced by 86% and 58% respectively," she notes.

"In deep, darker water (45–95 m), no change in catch was observed in the square-mesh panel treatment; however when LEDs were added to the square-mesh panel, haddock and flatfish catches were reduced by 47% and 25% respectively," she says.

She concludes that the findings have implications for fisheries that operate at night-time, and in deep waters, as light levels are lower in these environments where the LEDs may have a larger impact.

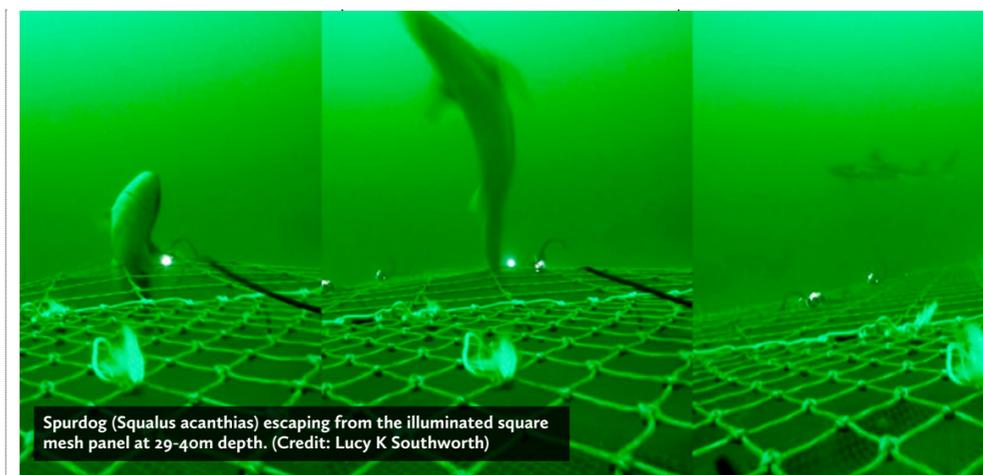
Southworth notes that earlier studies have shown certain species respond differently to fishing gear—with swimming behaviour differing between species—and this influences how easily they encounter the escape panel in a trawl.

Haddock and whiting tend to have better escape skills than cod. Previous studies have shown that whereas whiting and haddock tend to rise up in the net and actively locate escape gaps, cod tend to remain low in the net and tend to drift past escape panels.

Southworth says the researchers don't know why fish respond to lights, and whether some species are deterred by such illumination. However, her paper notes that additional net modifications could help to reduce bycatch.

The study points out LEDs can be used in both small and large-scale fisheries, and are not restricted to certain gear types.

The study was sponsored by



Spurdog (*Squalus acanthias*) escaping from the illuminated square mesh panel at 29–40m depth. (Credit: Lucy K Southworth)

SafetyNet Technologies Ltd and the Manx Fish Producers' Organisation, along with the British Department for Environment, Forestry and Agriculture and the Isle of Man

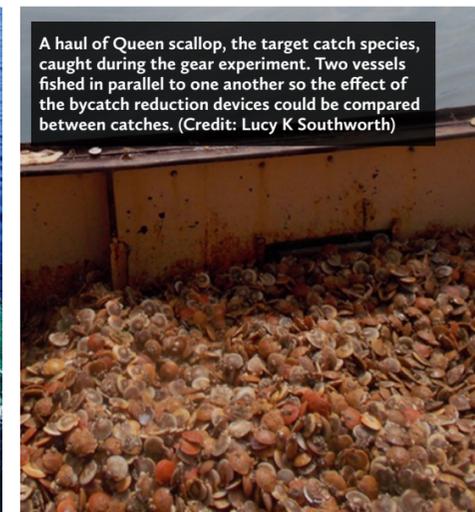
government.

"Artificial light improves escapement of fish from a trawl net" by Lucy K Southworth, Frances Ratcliffe, Isobel Bloor, Jack Emmerson, Dan Watson,

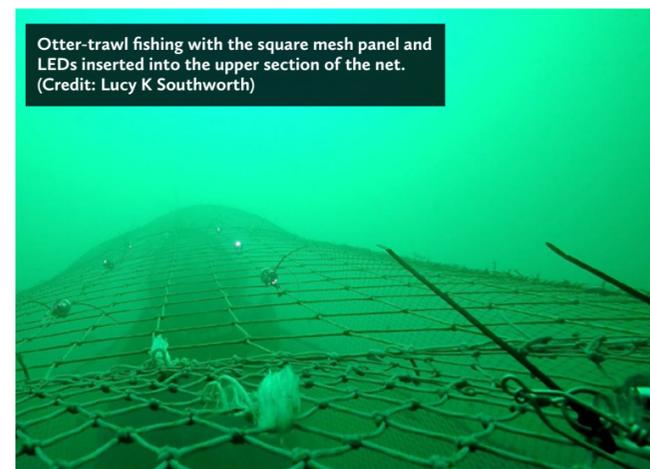
David Beard and Michel J Kaiser is published in the *Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom* and is available to read at: <https://bit.ly/lessdiscards>



Otter-trawl deployed behind the Queen scallop fishing vessel with a square mesh panel and LEDs inserted into the upper section of the net. (Credit: Lucy K Southworth)



A haul of Queen scallop, the target catch species, caught during the gear experiment. Two vessels fished in parallel to one another so the effect of the bycatch reduction devices could be compared between catches. (Credit: Lucy K Southworth)



Otter-trawl fishing with the square mesh panel and LEDs inserted into the upper section of the net. (Credit: Lucy K Southworth)



Authors of the study hold up the square mesh panel, inserted into the otter-trawl net with LEDs attached. Lights help to increase escapement of fish through the large square mesh in the panel. (Credit: Sian Morgan)

## New dates set for Irish Skipper Expo and LAST Ball

Irish Skipper Expo 2020 has been rescheduled to take place on 4 and 5 September at the UL Sport Arena in Limerick, following its earlier postponement due to uncertainty over the escalation of COVID-19 (coronavirus).

Mara Media, organiser of Irish Skipper Expo 2020, announced last month that the show originally scheduled for 13 and 14 March in Limerick had been postponed due to uncertainty surrounding the global pandemic.

The decision, said Hugh Bonner, managing director of Mara Media, had not been taken lightly but was the only sensible and pragmatic option in terms of safeguarding the health and wellbeing of exhibitors and visitors to the show.

Following discussion with the UL Sport Arena and others, the setting of a new date so quickly will provide welcome certainty for exhibitors and visitors alike and enable plenty of time for planning and the rescheduling of diaries.

Sharon Boyle of Mara Media said: "We were determined



UL Sport Arena in Limerick, venue for the Irish Skipper Expo 2020

to act swiftly and set a new date for the expo to enable exhibitors and visitors to plan ahead. Our decision to postpone the event was not taken lightly, but the wellbeing of exhibitors and visitors is of paramount importance to us, and we had no other option, given the circumstances. "We would like to thank the

UL Sport Arena for working with us in setting a new date, as well as our valued exhibitors for being so supportive during this challenging period. We ask everyone to bear with us as we endeavour to get more information updated to our website shortly."

To coincide with the new show dates, a new date has also

been set for the Lost At Sea Tragedies (LAST) fundraising event 'The Fishermen's Fling'. The LAST fundraiser will now take place on Friday, September 4th at the Castletroy Park Hotel, with all tickets still valid for the new date. On the night a mega-raffle will be held for thousands of euro worth of fishing gear.

## The Fishermen's Fling

Ireland's only fishing charity, LAST (Lost At Sea Tragedies) are holding a major fundraising event to coincide with the Irish Skipper Show, now being held in Limerick on the 4th and 5th of September, 2020.

Tragedy and inconsolable death is an all too regular occurrence for our fishing communities. Whilst the fishermen who brave our Atlantic seas bear the risks, it is often the bereaved neighbours, friends and, of course, the families who are left to mourn the price that the sea demands from its harvesters. LAST has arisen from such a tragedy.

Founded by the late Noel McDonagh of Dunmore East after the tragic loss of the Bolger brothers, when he saw there was no financial help or support for families at such a difficult time, LAST aims to provide practical support in such instances.

"The Fishermen's Fling" is a Charity Gala Evening in the Castletroy Park Hotel now rescheduled for Friday, September 4th, with 100 per cent of the proceeds going to support the families of Irish fishermen.

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

MC on the night will be provided by well-known journalist and broadcaster, Damien Tiernan, author of *Souls of the Sea*, the story of the 2007 *Pere Charles* and *Honey Dew II* fishing tragedies, which saw seven fishermen lose their lives.

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

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

For further details please contact Caitlin 085 2469164, Trudy 087 1225636, Niall 086 8937916, or Catherina in the LAST office on 083 4244495.

# IRELAND'S FLAGSHIP FISHERIES SHOW

## RESCHEDULED SHOW DATES

04-05 SEPT 2020  
FRI 10-6 SAT 10-4



## UL SPORT, LIMERICK



## The Skipper

Show Sponsors



For more information on Irish Skipper Expo 2020 please contact:

Sharon Boyle  
Commercial Fishing Manager

Email: [sharon@maramedia.ie](mailto:sharon@maramedia.ie)

Tel: 00353 (0)74 95 48037  
Mobile: 00353 (0)86 8401250

Web: [www.theskipper.ie](http://www.theskipper.ie)

IRISH SKIPPER EXPO 2020

## Coronavirus: EU supports for the fishing industry



Virginijus Sinkevičius, European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries

Over the past weeks, several supports have been announced at EU-level in response to the severe economic impact the coronavirus is having on the fishing and aquaculture sectors. On March 13, the Commission adopted a €37 billion Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative, designed to support the European healthcare sector, labour market and SMEs from all affected sectors, including fisheries.

As part of that, to quickly direct those funds to address the consequences of the coronavirus crisis, the Commission has proposed to waive its obligation this year to request refunding of unspent funds for several structural funds, including the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). Those funds could then, instead, be used by Member States for investments related to the virus under those funds.

In terms of safeguarding the incomes of fishermen, the Commission's Initiative proposes to amend the EMFF regulation to make it possible for the EMFF to contribute mutual funds which provide

compensation to fishermen for economic losses caused by a public health crisis (i.e. coronavirus).

For fish farmers, the Initiative proposes to add the possibility for the EMFF to safeguard the income of aquaculture producers by contributing to an aquaculture stock insurance covering economic losses due to the same.

Speaking to *The Skipper* a spokeswoman for the Commission said the Initiative had been proposed "to make sure that Member States can make best use of EU budget money to address the corona crisis related impacts."

"The initiative," she said, "calls for maximum flexibility in applying EU spending rules."

"If Member States need to modify their national operational programmes, the Commission will facilitate this work. The objective is to release and spend the money quickly," she said.

"All possible means—within the existing EU budget—will be used to support EU countries in their handling of this unprecedented situation," she said, while also

highlighting that the proposed measures were "a first step."

"We hope that the co-legislators (European Parliament and Council) can adopt them quickly," she said.

To speed up adoption of the Commission's proposal, the European Parliament's Fisheries Committee has since requested urgent procedure to swiftly amend the EMFF, in line with the proposal, to help provide a quick response to mitigate the negative consequences of the pandemic on the fishing industry.

EP Fisheries Chair, Pierre Karleskind (Renew Europe, FR) said: "With the agreement of the political groups in the Committee on Fisheries, I asked President Sassoli to deal with this important file under urgent procedure."

"This unprecedented crisis requires swift action. Together with the representatives of the groups, we will carry on working to put in place rapid and effective measures to help the aquaculture and fisheries sectors impacted by the Covid-19 crisis."

Since then, the Commission has also announced a revision to state aid rules, which allows Member States to provide temporary relief to economic operators hit by the crisis. The new rules include a large increase of the maximum amount of de minimis aid per undertaking, from € 30,000 to €120,000.

Virginijus Sinkevičius, European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, said: "Our fishermen and women and our aquaculture farmers are among the first to suffer the economic consequences of COVID-19, as the demand for seafood has

experienced a dramatic slump.

"But let me say it loud and clear: the European Union stands with you through this crisis. Together, we will ensure that the EU maintains a strong seafood industry and thriving coastal communities, now and in the future."

The revised state aid rules will enable Member States to make immediate support available, in the form of grants or tax advantages, to operators facing a sudden shortage or unavailability of liquidity.

Aid can be granted until 31 December 2020 to undertakings that face difficulties as a result of the virus outbreak.

To give guidance to Member States about the support measures that are available immediately and that can be used without delay, such as the above discussed revision to state aid rules, DG MARE has published an information note, which can be found at:

<https://bit.ly/2UiKaUy>

The note also provides guidance on measures that will become available after the entry into force of the Commission's coronavirus response package, which is at the time of writing is still being considered by Parliament and Council, though will likely have been adopted by time *The Skipper* is in print.

A more digestible factsheet detailing available supports to the sector can be found at:

<https://bit.ly/3boyh>

In addition to the above, the Commission continues to investigate other options to support the sector and, in this regard, remains in close contact with professional organisations, as well as the Member States' authorities and the European Parliament.

## Creed calls for EU Support for the Agri-Food and Fisheries Sectors

*Minister stresses the sectors' vital role in the continuity of food supply*

The Minister for the Marine, Michael Creed T.D., on March 25 urged the European Commission to deploy the full range of supports available to ensure the agri-food and fisheries sectors can best serve the needs of society during the COVID-19 crisis with the minimum possible economic impact.

Speaking after a special Council of Agriculture and Fisheries Ministers on the matter, which was held by video conference, Minister Creed stated, "The agri-

food and fisheries sectors have a central role to play in protecting the health and wellbeing of citizens in the context of COVID-19. In order to keep food supplies moving, and to support this vital aspect of our rural and coastal economies, significant supports will be needed at an early stage."

While welcoming recent initiatives at EU level, Minister Creed said there is nevertheless a need for specific and targeted supports for the agri-food and fisheries sectors. He said "I

urged the Commission today to be ready to introduce a range of measures, as required."

Among those the Minister referenced for the fisheries sector, was the making of the necessary legal changes to allow the introduction of Storage Aid without previous quantity restrictions, as well as the provision of additional financial support for the temporary cessation of fishing activity.

I have also sought flexibility for Member States to fast track delivery of these financial

supports," he said.

The Minister concluded by stating, "The key priority for all of us is to take the necessary steps to ensure that producers and processors can continue to operate effectively, that supply lines can be kept open, that we continue to feed people, and that the economic impact on the agri-food and fisheries sectors can be minimised. In this way, we can ensure that these sectors can not only survive, but also make a huge contribution to dealing with, the COVID-19 pandemic."



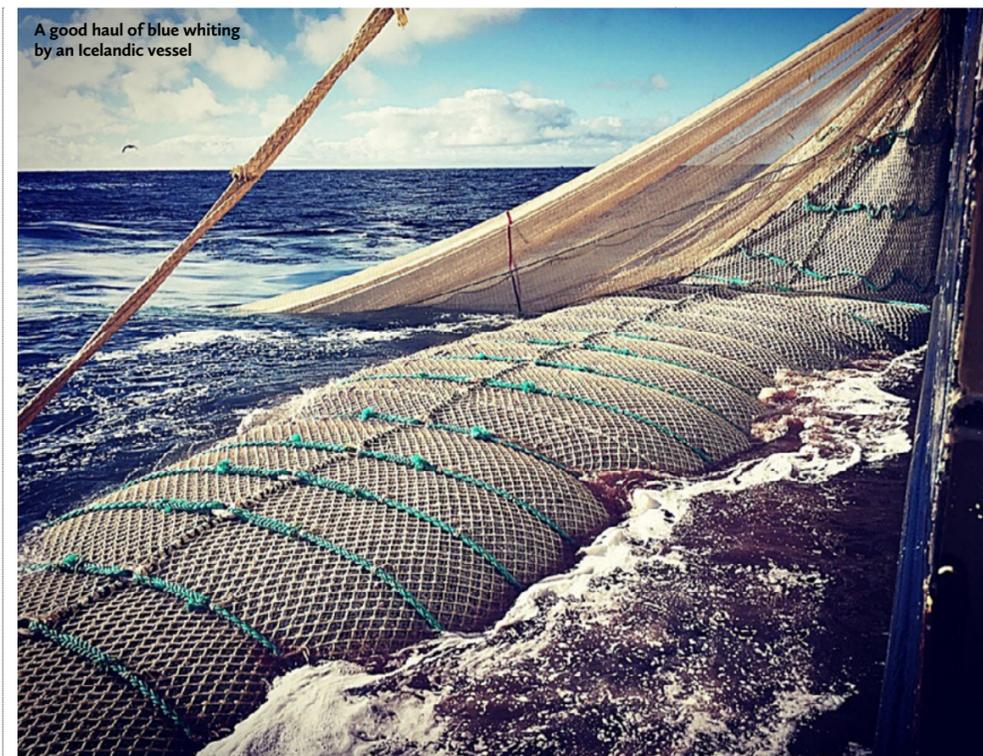
## ICELAND NEWS *By Gudjón Einarsson*

### Iceland's blue whiting fishery

With no capelin available this season around Iceland, the entire Icelandic pelagic fleet started fishing blue whiting in February west of the Irish jurisdiction, about 800 miles south of Iceland. The skippers complained of bad weather and heavy seas which interrupted their operations and damaged their trawl nets. "This situation is very tiresome. We have been here for four days and are now pumping from the second haul", said an Icelandic captain in an interview in early March. "Usually it takes two and a half days to reach these fishing grounds from Iceland but now you can expect the sailing to last up to 4-5 days."

#### Most of the catch in Faroese waters

When the blue whiting migrates into the Irish jurisdiction, usually in the latter part of March, the Icelandic vessels take a break from the fishery until late April when the fish appears in Faroese waters where Icelanders are permitted to operate. Last year, Iceland caught 268,000 tons of blue whiting, mostly in Faroese jurisdiction, in Spring and again in Autumn when the fish returns from the feeding grounds up north on its way to the spawning grounds west of Ireland. During the years 1997 to 2005 over 60% of Iceland's blue whiting quota was caught in Icelandic waters in summer but when the mackerel started migrating to Iceland at a similar time as the blue whiting the pelagic fleet turned to this more valuable newcomer instead and postponed the blue whiting fishery.



A good haul of blue whiting by an Icelandic vessel

#### A powerful fleet

Iceland possesses quite a powerful pelagic fleet for this fishery – some vessels have a capacity exceeding 3,000 tons. That is convenient when the fishing grounds are far away, as in this case. Last year, the top ten vessels caught 213,000 tons of blue whiting, i.e. 80% of the total catches. The blue whiting is for the most part processed in factories that turn the raw material into fish meal and fish oil. In 2018, blue whiting rendered 75 million euros to the Icelandic economy which was 5% of the total value of Iceland's seafood export.



Blue whiting

#### Disagreement on quotas

In 2018, the total catch of blue whiting in the North East Atlantic amounted to 1.7 million tons, of which Norway caught 438,000 tons, the Faroe Islands 350,000 tons and Iceland 293,000 tons (17%). For the current year ICES scientists

have recommended a total allowable catch of 1.162,000 tons. All parties—Norway, the Faroe Islands, Iceland and the EU—have supported this advice. Iceland, however, has refused to accept what the other nations have proposed as its share and has unilaterally decided for itself a quota of 188,500 tons.

## Capelin ban confirmed

It turned out as anticipated and feared (*The Skipper*, January 2020). No capelin fishing is allowed in Iceland for the second season in a row. In January and February the research vessel Arni Fridriksson along with five fishing vessels followed closely the migration of this tiny fish clockwise around Iceland but failed to register enough quantity

to make it safe to issue a quota. The spawning stock was estimated at 250,000 tons but needed to be at least 150,000 tons more for fishing to be allowed. The capelin dies after spawning so it is essential to leave behind sufficient quantity to ensure recruitment. Therefore, a capelin ban was issued.

The capelin stock has been shrinking

in recent years due to climate change. Instead of a total catch of over a million tons, the quota has been reduced to several hundred thousand tons annually in recent years. The capelin used to be the second most valuable species in Iceland rendering up to 250 million euros a year (2013) in export value. Last year and this year the income will be nil.

Portavogie. Image by Stephen McKee



Portavogie Harbour. Image by Stephen McKee



### COD RECOVERY 2020

Well, we thought it was simple but it never is when EU regulation and local interpretation of fine print is involved. Cod Recovery restriction was supposed to be over for the Irish Sea zones in 2020 and initially, notice was given that from February the 14th prawn fishers could fish in all places within or without the previously closed box. This gave some relief to the Portavogie boats which were now allowed to fish the north-east corner of the box which had been a contentious area favoured during high tides as one of the few viable Nephrops grounds. Later another notice decreed that fishing to the east of the Isle of Man by whitefish boats was also open. This was never a part of the Cod Recovery but an add-on of the UK/NI government in response to a chance to gain extra days at sea from the EU. As the days' regime was long since dead it had been assumed that this restriction had fallen also. Apparently not so! However, fishing for whitefish in the west Irish Sea box remained closed by licence condition despite EU derogation to open it up. After that not so clear as some whitefish vessels are still working the haddock ground inside the closed box albeit with mixed results and the scarcity of cod on the grounds and within quota remains an issue as licence condition remains.

## NORTHERN IRELAND NEWS *By Dick James*

### The fishery

The weather continues to restrict fishing activity, and although the gales of late have failed to match the storm levels of the early named storms, they were heavy enough to prevent fishing by the smaller trawlers, and even the larger multi-riggers found problems with disturbed water limiting prawn availability and making conditions less than perfect. There was one week where the weather settled enough for the majority of boats to give it a go and those that did were rewarded with good returns. Despite scaremongering, the prices have held particularly for tails and as a consequence of some far distant fall out between oil producers, the price of diesel fuel has dropped significantly. The boats active in the North Sea earlier in the winter are still in the process of returning back to local waters although some still hang on in North Shields waiting for better news from home. The Clyde remains largely unfished by the Northern

Ireland fleet as does the Smalls ground and points further south. The scallop dredge fishery is all but finished with only the diehard few (mainly the smaller boats) sticking it out until season closure on 31 May. The pelagic season is, again, finished with the voyager completing in Skagen and *Havilah/Stefanie M* tied in Belfast for many weeks past. Nonetheless, the smaller class of Irish pelagic trawler continues to fish available quota and land to the Co Down factories through Ardglass, Lisahally and Warrenpoint. The inshore sector have been hit not just by the weather but also by the market where problems in China have hit the Brown Crab fishery and, by displacement, the lobster fishery is also scratchy. Much ado about coronavirus with talk of institutions closing down, fish markets closed and even the fishery being closed! What price compensation? Don't hold your breath, but we shall see!

### Minister Poots at large

The new Minister responsible for Environment, Agriculture and Rural Affairs also holds the brief for fisheries and has certainly hit the water running as far as his fisheries brief goes! On February 19th he visited Kilkeel and pledged to protect and support the industry to prosper post-Brexit and vowed to implement the brown crab management measures that came from the 2019 consultation. He was also supportive of the net design work being done in the name of sustainability. Following that, a trip to Portavogie (missed by most) and was apparently seen taking in the fishing ports on a weekend drive through. Meeting with Ardglass representatives on the 10th of March he was briefed on the Harbour development plans, and the need to maintain the position of Ardglass



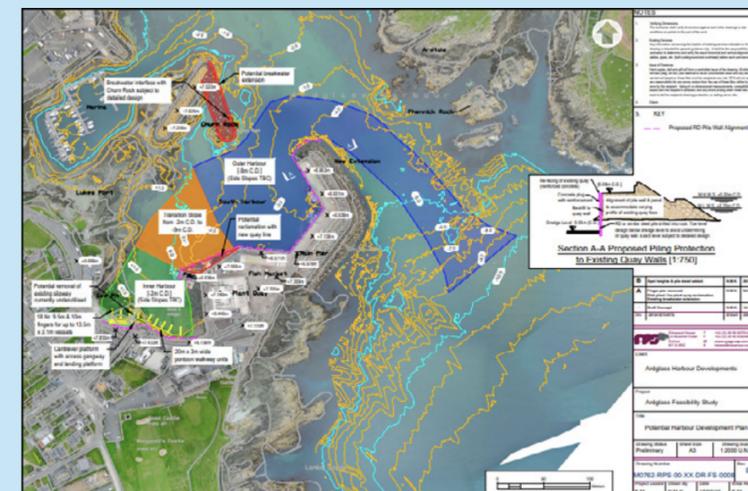
Minister Edwin Poots

within the Co Down fishing industry. Following that meeting he pledged to visit Ardglass in the near future to view for himself the situation there. The Minister was also reputedly involved in the Cod Recovery issues resulting in an opened up fishery, in meeting his pledge not to tolerate that the Northern Ireland industry be at any disadvantage.

## Ardglass Harbour Developments Ltd

Plans for the future development of Ardglass Harbour were unveiled by the proposers, Ardglass Harbour Developments Ltd, on the 10th of March. This follows a preview by the stakeholders of the main harbour on Friday, March 6th where the plan was agreed to and the green light shown to go forward. Basically, the main driver within the proposals was to deepen the harbour to make it suitable for use by the modern style of trawler which, in terms of depth/draught, are increasing year on year. This to accommodate the local benthic trawler fleet and the visitor pelagic trawler fleet. Ardglass Harbour is known for its deepwater potential but the wave climate within the harbour can be problematic at times making a deepwater shelter necessary. Thus, an entrance and main outer harbour

of 9 meters depth at low water is proposed shelving to an inner harbour (or sawpit area) of 2 meters, with pontoon facility for the local inshore fleet giving 19 individual berths. Beaches within the sawpit area are to be retained to leave drying out facility on the north face and leisure beach in the southern aspect. Repair facility in form of a slip or drydock has been left out of the original plan, as has been training and administration facility which it is hoped will be subject to private development. The plans will need to be built on with a business plan, geophysical survey and environmental study in the next phase of facilitating the project. The design analysis was completed by RPS Consulting, a civil engineering company based in Belfast and responsible for other similar projects worldwide.



Refined Proposed Layout - Potential Harbour Development Plan (Ardglass Harbour Development Technical Feasibility Study Technical Report; rpsgroup.com)



## UK NEWS

# Isolated in Cornwall? Heart-warming and healthy Cornish seafood right to your door



Image: Nina Constable

Seafood Cornwall's #FishToYourDoor initiative is bringing together fish merchants and customers across the country to support fishermen through the coronavirus crisis. Launching in the face

of the current coronavirus pandemic, and coordinated by Seafood Cornwall, a new service is creating a register of would-be fish buyers and merchants across the county, and further afield.

Project lead and CEO of the Cornish Fish Producers' Organisation, Paul Trebilcock, encouraged those practising social-distancing, or in self-isolation—or those simply wanting to get hold of top-quality local catch—to get in touch with Seafood Cornwall to arrange contact-free doorstep deliveries of fresh Cornish fish: “This is a unique opportunity to support our fishermen and ensure you have access to plenty of healthy, local fish and shellfish. We're working as a team to connect customers and merchants – in turn, this keeps the demand for fish up and keeps our fishermen going to sea. Everyone wins!”

As the spread of the coronavirus made headline news and restaurants across the country have been forced to close their doors, fish prices at markets across the south-west slumped. Pulling together as a community and keeping seafood businesses going through the coming months is a priority for Seafood Cornwall – an initiative launched one year ago to



Fresh mackerel

support Cornish fisheries.

“None of us planned for a pandemic,” notes Trebilcock, “this is an unimaginably tough situation for businesses across the country. Thankfully, with Seafood Cornwall in place now for over a year, we're in a great position to support our local seafood businesses, and make the lives of people in our community easier, too.”

“We don't see this ending once we are through the current situation, rather, this is the beginning of a better relationship between consumers and local fishing fleets so more people can benefit from eating healthy, sustainable locally caught fish and shellfish year-round.”

Those interested in ordering fresh fish and shellfish deliveries to their doors in

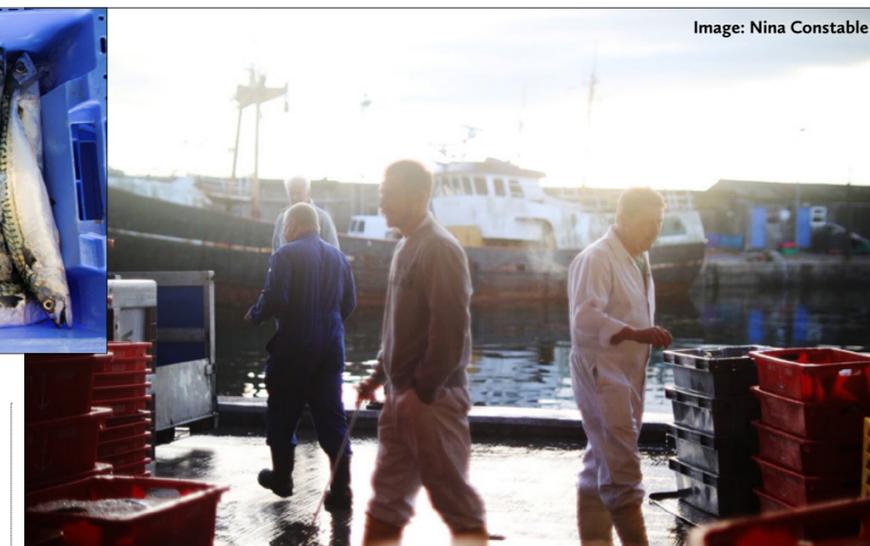


Image: Nina Constable

the coming days, weeks and months are encouraged to:

- email Seafood Cornwall on: [info@seafoodcornwall.org.uk](mailto:info@seafoodcornwall.org.uk);
  - message Seafood Cornwall on twitter @CornwallSeafood, or;
  - contact the Cornish Fish Producers' Organisation on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Cornishfpo](https://www.facebook.com/Cornishfpo).
- A register of merchants with fresh fish available and vans for delivery is being

coordinated through the Seafood Cornwall team, who are also happy to answer any questions about Cornish fishing and local, seasonal fish species.

Many merchants can deliver beyond Cornwall – please spread the word to family and friends across the county to support our Cornish fishermen, and protect coastal communities from the worst of the economic onslaught from the coronavirus.

### CFPO emphasises a lower volumes, higher quality approach

#### Advises shorter trips and staggered landings

With market demand and prices for fish and shellfish falling across the board, emphasising a lower volumes and higher quality approach, the Cornish Fish Producers Organisation (CFPO) has advised their members to make shorter trips and to stagger their landings.

The advice issued on March 18, following discussion between the CFPO, together with the South Western Fish Producer's Organisation and Interfish FPO, and local markets in Newlyn, Plymouth and Brixham, indicates that shellfish merchants have almost entirely ceased taking any shellfish. Some prime fish, including Dover sole, is currently holding price-wise, but this, says the PO, is not assured and may not hold longer term.

Echoing advice issued earlier by the PO, the advice states there is a great deal of uncertainty and worries about what species might be most vulnerable to major demand and/or price drops. However, at this stage, it is felt that emphasis should be on lower volumes and higher quality as a

general approach.

“Shorter trips are considered to be a wiser step rather than risking higher volumes from longer trips that may be more difficult to sell – obviously where possible/practical,” they say, while also asking members to speak to their buyers about what they are catching and when they intend to land, to ensure they can spread their landings.

“Market stability is more likely to be secured from shorter trips and staggered landings,” they say.

The PO also states they will remain in close liaison with other south west POs and markets, and highlights that discussions have already begun with Defra via NFFO and UKAFPO jointly as well as by individual POs regarding a support package for fishermen.

However, these, they say, are “in early stages and almost certainly won't be a quick fix.” “Given the poor start to the year, weather-wise, many parts of the fleet are entering this crisis with very little resilience/money in the bank, therefore measure must be genuine and include both real money and regulatory considerations,” they say.

The CFPO says advice on direct selling and updates from Defra on financial support for

fishermen will be forthcoming and say they are also working to help keep up demand for fish and shellfish in Cornwall, connecting customers with fish merchants with the capacity to deliver fresh fish.

#### Free eye tests for fishermen in England in Wales

Aimed at easing access to primary eye care for fishermen in Britain, the Fishermen's Mission has launched its new SightFit Project in partnership with Vision Express and generously funded by Trinity House.

Fishermen often work long, irregular hours and are therefore less likely to attend routine screening appointments which can pick up potential issues. Recent pilot programmes at the harbourside have also indicated that fishermen often experience some measure of UV damage. Chronic exposure to UV can cause sore, inflamed eyes and eventually significant loss of sight requiring corneal surgery.

We also know that some fishermen with sight limitations such as myopia, go out to sea without wearing glasses, putting themselves and others at risk.

The SightFit Project aims to deliver easier access to primary

eye care for fishermen, thereby contributing to better overall eye health in fishing communities. Free Eye Check vouchers will be sent to each of the Fishermen's Mission welfare hubs in England and Wales where our frontline outreach staff will hand them out to local fishermen as required.

Fishermen can then make an appointment at the nearest Vision Express outlet, show the voucher to staff and receive a free Eye Check – the scheme is not running in Scotland where all eye checks are already free of charge. If prescription glasses are needed, Vision Express will offer a £45 discount towards the cost of purchasing the glasses.

The Fishermen's Mission estimates that through SightFit around 300 fishermen will be screened for eye conditions that can lead to visual impairment or blindness if left untreated such as Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD), glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy. They will also benefit from further eye care services and potential treatment if needed which is designed to save sight such as cataract surgery.

“SightFit is a brilliantly simple way to encourage busy fishermen to have their eyes checked, detecting vision problems before they get worse and also

keeping them and the rest of their crews, safe while at sea. We are delighted to be working so closely with two prestigious partners who share our passion for improving access to basic healthcare among the country's fishermen”, said Carol Elliott, SightFit Project Manager.

For further details contact: Carol Elliott on 07486 319621 or at [PDMSeafit@fishermensmission.org.uk](mailto:PDMSeafit@fishermensmission.org.uk)

#### MMO announce Maritime & Fisheries Fund (MFF) application dates for 2020

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) has announced panel dates for applications for the Maritime & Fisheries Fund (MFF). The MMO is administering the new £15.4 million MFF, which is England's share of the £37 million additional funding for the UK which was announced by Treasury.

The fund is open to applications to develop port and harbour infrastructure, processing and marketing of fisheries products, productive investments in aquaculture and to support lifesaving vessel safety measures, among other areas which can be viewed on our website.

Any applications that are over

£100,000 in total project cost are considered by the MFF panel. The panel is responsible for reviewing applications and recommending projects for approval in line with the objectives of the scheme.

The 2020 panel dates are as follows:

- The first panel will be held on 04 March 2020. The deadline for applications has passed.
- A second panel will take place week commencing 08 June with a deadline for applications of 10 April.
- A third panel will convene week commencing 24 August with an application deadline of 26 June.
- A fourth panel will take place week commencing 09 November with an application deadline of 11 September.

To be considered for the panel, it is recommended that applicants ensure their fully formed, completed applications are submitted to MMO before the set deadlines. The MFF has a short time frame so projects must be fully formed and ready to progress and spend quickly.

The panel dates are subject to funding availability. You can contact the MMO Grants Team on 0208 026 5539 to discuss any potential panel application or visit

the MMO website for guidance and information on how to make an application.

#### Seafish wants to hear from UK sector

Despite adjustments to how they work, Seafish have said they are fully committed to supporting the UK seafood sector through this difficult time. In this situation, they say, the availability of food is crucial and the seafood industry has a huge part to play in this.

They are aware, they say, of the impact the Covid-19 outbreak is already having on seafood businesses and supply chains and they will do what they can to help. One such step they are taking is pulling together a complete overview of all the impacts of coronavirus across the entire seafood sector.

And so, they are calling on the sector to provide information and insight that will enable Seafish to provide a full overview to the industry and Government through regular reports.

You can share how your business is affected by coronavirus and how you are responding by emailing [seafish@seafish.co.uk](mailto:seafish@seafish.co.uk) or get in touch with anybody at Seafish and they will share your story with our

analysis team. Your information will be treated confidentially.

#### UK landings and value down in 2019

The UK's Marine Management Organisation (MMO) recently published year end provisional landings statistics for 2019. According to those, and reflecting quota cuts across several main species, total landings for the UK fleet for 2019 was 618, 129 tonnes down from 697 508 tonnes (-11%) for the same period in 2018. Catch value, at £925,855,000 was also down on 2018 from £988,984,000, representing a dip of 6%, despite an increase in average prices.

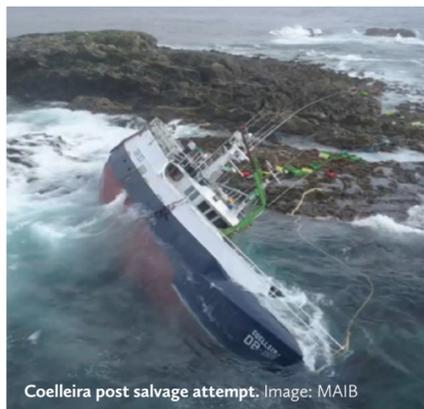
Total demersal landings for the fleet were down 7%, from 176,366 to 164,407 tonnes, and down 10% in terms of value, from £ 354,476,000 to £ 319,409,000. Pelagic landings fell 20%, from 385,847 to 308,309 tonnes, falling 12% in terms of value from £272,773,000 to £239,589,000.

Shellfish landings on the other hand, increased from 135,295 to 145,413 tonnes (+7%), and in terms of value were up 1%, from £361,735,000 to £366,856,000, the difference between which can be explained by the 5% decrease in the average price received per tonne.



## SCOTLAND NEWS

### Investigation into the stranding and loss of *Coelleira*



Coelleira post salvage attempt. Image: MAIB

The MAIB report into the 2019 stranding and loss of the vessel *Coelleira* off the Shetland Islands was published last month.

At about 01.24 on 4 August 2019, the Spanish owned UK registered fishing vessel *Coelleira* grounded on Ve Skerries, a low-lying reef off the west coast of the Shetland Islands, Scotland, while on passage to land its catch in Scrabster, Scotland.

The vessel immediately listed to port and its 15 crew were evacuated by the coastguard rescue helicopter. Attempts to salvage *Coelleira* were unsuccessful and the vessel broke up and sank.

There were no injuries and, although the vessel was carrying about 15 tonnes of diesel oil, there was no significant pollution.

According to the MAIB's safety flyer to the fishing industry, the following key safety issues were identified in relation to the incident:

- The route from the fishing grounds to Scrabster was not plotted on paper charts or in the chart plotter. Instead, the skipper altered the vessel's heading to follow the coastline, using the radar and chart plotter to keep clear of navigational hazards.
- Ve Skerries was possibly not displayed on the chart plotter due to the quality of the chart data, or detected by radar due to the range scale in use.
- The wheelhouse had been unattended for some time when the vessel grounded.
- During the passage, *Coelleira's* skipper maintained the wheelhouse watch alone and it is possible that his level of arousal and awareness were reduced by fatigue due to a disrupted sleep pattern over the previous 2 weeks, and the time of the day.

In terms of safety lessons, the MAIB recommends:

- Passage planning is a prerequisite of safe navigation, particularly in unfamiliar waters. Plotting an intended route either on a paper chart or in a chart plotter not

only provides an overview of the planned passage, but it also enables all potential hazards to be identified and avoided.

- Keeping a good lookout does not just require looking out of the window. It also requires tying in what can be seen with what is shown on the chart, and therefore is expected, and adjusting radar displays and chart plotters to ensure that the track ahead is clear.
- Fishing invariably involves working long and unsociable hours. However, careful management is required to prevent limited opportunities to rest impacting on a vessel's safe operation. The ability to work a watch system that ensures wheelhouse watchkeepers get adequate rest and enable the provision of an additional lookout at night, is an essential factor when determining manning levels.
- Leaving a wheelhouse unattended is never a good move, no matter for how brief a period.
- Most fishing vessels rely on electronic chart plotters for marking positions of underwater obstructions, fishing gear and successful fishing tows. Due to the advantage that real time positioning provides, chart plotters are also invariably used for navigation instead of paper charts. However, unless the plotters are loaded with up-to-date electronic charts at appropriate scales, they will not be sufficiently accurate for navigation.

### Scottish industry will keep up pressure over key Brexit goals

Scottish fishermen's leaders say they will maintain pressure on ministers to secure the industry's top priority of control over access to UK waters as Brexit trade talks proceed, and say they will continue to urge the government to stick to its plan to make decisions on who gets to catch what, where and when around UK shores from 2021 and beyond.

Elspeth Macdonald, chief executive of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF), said: "The UK government's position is clear and concise: that under international law, we will become an independent coastal state with control over our waters and that access to those waters will be granted through annual international negotiations between sovereign equals."

"Outside the Common Fisheries Policy, which is where we will be, this is perfectly normal. It is what other major fishing nations such as Norway and Iceland do."

"Similarly, those nations do not trade away access to their waters in exchange for access to EU markets for their seafood produce. The UK government has recognised this in its negotiating mandate and we fully intend to hold them to that."

Ms Macdonald added: "The EU is insisting that the status quo should prevail, whereby the UK catches only less than 40% of the available quota stocks in our waters."

"That, of course, is untenable. UK ministers and negotiators need to stick to their guns and deliver the Sea of Opportunity that will so patently benefit our coastal communities."

### SSA raises serious concerns over immigration system with government

Amid serious concerns about the impact of the government's points-based immigration system on seafood processing, Scottish Seafood Association (SSA) chief executive Jimmy Buchan met Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Scotland Douglas Ross along with other food sector representatives in Elgin on March 2nd.

Mr Buchan said Mr Ross assured him that he understood the potential hazards of the system for a range of industries, from seafood to soft fruit farming to hospitality.

"He made it clear that he is very much on this and will engage with the immigration minister to make sure that our sector's voice and Scotland's voice is heard loud and clear," he said.

Both the SSA and the Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation (SSPO) united in February to call for urgent discussions with UK Government ministers amid concerns about the impact the government's post-Brexit immigration plans would have on the sector.

The "points-based" immigration system, as promised in the Conservative election manifesto, would mean 'low-skilled' migrant workers would not get visas.

According to the UK government's policy statement, published in February,



Meeting in Elgin to discuss concerns. Image: SSA

the plan would not include a "low-skilled or temporary work route". The statement goes on to say, "We need to shift the focus of our economy away from a reliance on cheap labour from Europe and instead concentrate on investment in technology and automation."

"Employers will need to adjust," it says.

The Tory immigration plans immediately elicited widespread criticism, including from Scotland on the basis of the impact the plans would have on the economy and sectors such as fishing, with the SSA highlighting the dependence of the processing sector on overseas labour and stressing the importance of ensuring businesses are able to be fully staffed to deal with the growth in seafood volumes from January 2021.

### New ice production facility operational at Eyemouth Harbour



New ice production facility

A new ice production facility for use by the fishing industry is now operational at Eyemouth Harbour in South East Scotland.

Funding from the European Maritime Fisheries Fund and Scottish Borders Council Eyemouth Regeneration Fund was secured in 2018 and enabled the Trust to undertake the project. The project included decommissioning an obsolete plant (formerly owned by the Eyemouth Ice Co-operative which ceased trading in 2016) and purchase of new, modern, fit for purpose machinery.

The new plant has a capacity of 5 tonnes per day, producing macro flake ice which will be sold in 500 Kgs bins. Ice will be delivered directly to fishing vessels via a new incline conveyor system.

Operations of the ice production facility will be supported by a specially adapted forklift truck, which was part funded by the EMFF Forth FLAG Community Led Local Development program. The new forklift truck has the capacity to safely transfer ice from the bins to the delivery system. The funding included training for members of staff who will operate the truck.

Councillor Mark Rowley, Scottish Borders Council's Executive Member for Business and Economic Development, said: "Eyemouth Harbour, and the businesses and fleet

that use it, are hugely important to the local economy and I am delighted that Scottish Borders Council has enthusiastically supported this vital and locally-led project.

"Eyemouth and East Berwickshire is a particular focus for this Council, and this is just one of a range of recent developments we have supported. The ice plant will not only support existing businesses along the Berwickshire coast but hopefully attract more vessels to use the harbour, strengthening its long-term viability and protecting local jobs."

Rosalind McArthur, EMFF Forth FLAG Programme Co-Ordinator added, "This was a significant project for our coastal community and the Forth FLAG were delighted to support it."

Christine Bell, Eyemouth Harbour Trust Business Manager commented, "Ice is essential to keep the catch in optimum condition for onward distribution to markets. This new facility means Eyemouth can offer a full suite of services to the local and visiting fishing fleets and demonstrates the ongoing commitment of Eyemouth Harbour Trust to continuing support for the fishing industry in Eyemouth."

All enquiries and orders for ice should be directed to the Eyemouth Harbour Master's Office on 00044 18907 50223 or email [harbourmaster@eyemouth-harbour.co.uk](mailto:harbourmaster@eyemouth-harbour.co.uk)



Interior

### Scottish Skipper Expo 2020 postponed



Scottish Skipper Expo 2019

The Scottish Skipper Expo 2020, originally scheduled for 15 and 16 May at the P & J Live arena in Aberdeen, has been postponed due to the continuing escalation of COVID-19 (coronavirus).

Show organiser, Mara Media says its overwhelming priority is the health and safety of exhibitors, visitors and the wider public, and as such, it had no other option than to postpone the show.

Hugh Bonner, managing director of Mara Media, said: "It is with great regret that we've decided to postpone Scottish Skipper Expo 2020; the wellbeing of our exhibitors and visitors is paramount."

"Postponing now also brings an end to any uncertainty among exhibitors and visitors about whether the expo was going ahead on the planned dates. We value tremendously the support of everyone involved in Scottish Skipper Expo and we would like to thank them for their patience during this challenging time."

Mara Media will now be working hard to identify a new date for Scottish Skipper Expo, and updates will be published on the show website —<https://theskipper.ie/scottish-skipper-expo/>—as soon as is practicably possible.

### UK Brexit deal negotiators must 'stand firm' on fisheries, says SFA

Last month, Shetland Fishermen's Association (SFA) urged UK negotiators to "stand firm" as talks over the future relationship between the UK and EU began.

Referring to the EU's insistence that its fishing fleets should enjoy the same rights in UK waters after December 2020 as they have had under the Common Fisheries Policy, SFA executive officer Simon Collins said: "Our European colleagues do not appear to have grasped the fact that we are no longer part of the EU, and we are no longer prepared to be subservient to the European Commission."

"The UK is legally a sovereign state once again. Sovereign states strike trade and other deals with each other in their mutual interests. They do not—or should not—claim rights to plunder another country's natural resources."

"The idea that the EU should continue to occupy British waters as it pleases makes a mockery of our new position under international law."

Mr Collins added: "Our negotiators need to stand firm in the face of such arrogance and deliver what they have promised – a coastal state with control over the fish in UK waters and the right to manage stocks in a proper, sustainable fashion."

"That way, we can revitalise our hard-pressed coastal and island communities through jobs and investment."

## SKETLAND NEWS

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

### Scalloway fish market: a 'giant fridge' awaiting the first fish

**THE NEW** fish market in Scalloway has been hailed as a giant, state-of-the-art fridge that will serve the islands and the fishing industry for decades to come.

The £5.6 million building project was handed over to owners Shetland Islands Council (SIC) earlier in February after being completed on time and—most likely—below budget by Aberdeen based construction firm CHAP Group.

The new premises, built on the site of the previous fish market but double its size, has a floor space of almost 2,000 square feet and a lay down space in the main auction hall for around 1,000 tiers of fish boxes.

During a tour of the new facility at the end of February, the council's small ports supervisor Ross Maclellan said the building has been designed to be as energy efficient as possible with fully controllable low-energy air source heat pumps and passive chilling units.

"The building is double in size but only uses half the energy of the previous fish market," he said.

The first whitefish landings are expected either next month or in April, once final food certification is in place.

The SIC, as the harbour authority, decided back in December 2018 to press ahead with building the new fish

market despite missing out on an expected contribution of £2.4 million of European funding.

More whitefish is landed in Shetland than in England, Wales and Northern Ireland put together, and almost half of that amount—185,000 boxes last year—comes through Scalloway.

With fishermen eager to capitalise on new opportunities, depending on how Brexit negotiations between the UK Government and the European Union progress, there is the potential for a lot more fish being landed from 2021.

Chair of the SIC's harbour board councillor Andrea Manson said it had been essential to provide new and better infrastructure for the industry. The council will be able to recoup its investment via landing fees.

"The old building struggled to meet all the current legislation, such as health and safety and environmental health. This now gives Scalloway a state-of-the-art fish market that will serve the industry for many years," Manson said.

She described the building as "future-proof" as it had been built with the "very best materials" available. "Fish landings in Shetland have grown significantly over the last years and I hope to see that continuing into the future," she said.

"Providing facilities like this



Cllr. Andrea Manson

will encourage fishermen to come and land their fish here. They will know that this is a state-of-the-art facility and buyers will know that they get the best possible product from here.

"This has been built to last, so basically this is a giant fridge build with the very best possible materials. I look forward to seeing the first fish landings soon."

Now that broadband has been installed in the building buyers will have direct online access to the market via Shetland Seafood Auctions.

The completion of the Scalloway market is slightly ahead of a similar project on the east side of Shetland where Tulloch Developments is building

a new fish market for Lerwick Port Authority at Mair's Quay.

Manson acknowledged that increased fish landings has the potential to further exacerbate the transport bottleneck between Shetland and the Scottish mainland, and added that the significance of Shetland's two fish markets underlined the need for a dedicated cargo vessel for the islands.

"If the market becomes even more popular and there is more fish landed, then we can go to the government and call for more cargo ships," she said. "We should have a dedicated cargo vessel that leaves here every day anyhow – particularly on days when fish is being landed."

### Local seafood sector hailed as industry body looks to develop post-Brexit vision



Ruth Henderson

**THE SHETLAND** seafood sector will "remain at the forefront of supporting the isles' current and future economic prospects, whatever lies ahead" with Brexit.

That is the message from Seafood Shetland chief executive Ruth Henderson.

Her views come as industry body Seafood Scotland looks to undertake a review to explore the actions required to take "full advantage of becoming a coastal state and increasing landings into Scotland" which may come after Brexit.

The organisation aims to produce a "compelling and positive vision for where the seafood sector needs to be post-

Brexit" and outline the "current state of play and the hurdles the industry will face and need to overcome in the coming months and years".

"The blueprint for the sector is to not only successfully catch and sell their current offering but to take advantage of the opportunity a coastal state will bring to Scotland's seafood sector," Seafood Scotland wrote in a document for the tendering of the work.

While the UK has formally left the European Union (EU), there is a transition period until the end of the year in which negotiations will take place, in areas like trade.

Fishermen were in support

of leaving the EU to escape the Common Fisheries Policy, and "take back control" of the UK's waters — something which could potentially bring in more landings.

The UK Government says that as an independent coastal state from January 2021, it will be responsible for managing the country's territorial waters (out to 12 nautical miles) and the Exclusive Economic Zone (out to 200 nautical miles or the median line with other states).

Non-UK vessels, including EU or EEA registered vessels, will not be permitted to fish in UK waters, unless there is an access agreement and the vessels have the appropriate licence.

Seafood Scotland said that to take advantage of becoming a coastal state, "we need a fit for purpose supply chain".

Henderson, who oversees local industry body Seafood Shetland, said she feels the isles' sector has "weathered many storms" before and is strong enough to see past any challenges which may arise from Brexit.

"We note Seafood Scotland's planned review of the sector and the activity required by the Scottish Government, agencies and industry bodies to secure the

industry's future post Brexit," she said.

"Whatever the future may hold — accepting that there may be some threats — there will undoubtedly come opportunities. The seafood industry has underpinned Shetland's economy for centuries and weathered many storms.

"I believe that while things may change, the sector will remain at the forefront of supporting the isles' current and future economic prospects, whatever lies ahead."

### Newly appointed Aith lifeboat coxswain looks forward to the challenge



John Robertson, new Aith coxswain

**LOCAL** man John Robertson has been appointed new coxswain of the Aith lifeboat, the most northerly in the country.

The 31-year-old father of two is being promoted from Charles Lidbury's full-time engineer to lead the team at the RNLI lifeboat station on Shetland's westside.

He replaces Adam James, who has now moved to the north of England to take up a job as coxswain with the RNLI's operations on the river Humber near Hull.

John was selected for promotion by the RNLI after formal assessments and interviews. He has taken on the role under supervision until his final training is completed in the coming months.

He said it was the trust and encouragement from the crew that made him apply for the coxswain job.

"Time is of the essence whenever we launch the RNLI Charles Lidbury, as we try to launch our lifeboat within seven minutes of our pagers going off,"

he said.

In his six and half years as the lifeboat's mechanic John has already experienced some "notable incidents at sea".

John's first ever 'shout' was to the fatal sinking of the scallop boat *Diamond* near the West Burrafirth pier in March 2014, when RNLI volunteers managed to rescue a surviving crew member from the water.

He was also part of the team that attended the rescue of the *Edward Henry*, the crab fishing boat that was hit by a large wave west of Sumburgh in March 2017 – smashing wheelhouse windows and knocking out engines and electronics.

"Aith is a relatively quiet station, but our call-outs tend to be serious, lengthy and often in testing weather conditions," the coxswain added.

"We need to work well as a team in order to save lives at sea – and I'm really looking forward to stepping up and leading that team of committed local volunteers."

### Urgent measures sought to help shellfish sector

**THE FISHING** industry in Shetland is seeking urgent help for the shellfish sector with the market for crabs and scallops taking a hammering "overnight" owing to coronavirus.

Discussions are ongoing with the Scottish Government for temporary help for the sector which is hardest hit among the local strands of the fishing industry.

Shetland's continental exports are mostly crab and scallop, but prawns (Nephrops), which form a huge part of Scottish seafood exports, are also badly affected.

Shetland Fishermen's Association executive officer Simon Collins said that it was essential to support a sector that in normal times was very healthy in order to tide it over till the effects of coronavirus had broken.

With the Spanish tourism industry said to have collapsed overnight, restaurants and other outlets that buy shellfish are no longer on the market.

Collins added: "Shellfish is heavily dependent on a healthy shellfish market. The kind of vessels getting hit are the smaller vessels, some are single crew boats and that is the same around the coast of Scotland."

Collins said that while the Scottish Government was trying to come up with ways to help the broader food and agriculture sector there was a dedicated team dealing with the seafood sector.

"We are asking the government for emergency assistance and that will be discussed in the coming days within the industry and with government. The real focus is on the shellfish sector, particularly the under 10m fleet."

There are over 100 registered shellfish boats in Shetland with some 50 to 80 in the SFA, according to Collins, making it the biggest sector by numbers of vessels in the local fleet.

The broader industry is monitoring developments in the Covid-19 pandemic "on a daily basis" with prices starting to slip for some of the

dearer white fish species that feed the continental market.

Fish salesmen and buyers held a meeting following Monday, March 16th's markets to discuss developments but the outcome was to keep business as usual. No landings were expected for Wednesday, March 18 as a result of the weather.

Shetland Fish Producers' Organisation chief executive Brian Isbister said that fishermen would make their own decisions about continuing fishing for the moment based on commercial factors like the price of fish.

Isbister said: "The high-end stuff (monkfish, megrim etc) is a fairly big component of the catch here and goes into continental restaurants. Having said that, the continent is still buying fish, but more for sale through supermarkets. Like here they do not pay the prices we have been seeing."

Isbister said that the industry might try some form of supply control if the demand was not there on the market. In the meantime, whether to keep fishing would be a decision for the skippers.

At the time of writing fish that is consumed in the UK like cod, haddock and whiting has been making stable prices this week with the 800 boxes landed in Lerwick on Tuesday, March 17 remaining consistent with recent prices, though there were some signs that monkfish, megrim and the like were slackening.

LHD fish salesman James Aitken said there were no plans to close the market but the industry was closely monitoring the situation.

"There have been fears that the price will come back a bit but so far there has been nothing catastrophic. There is always going to be a demand for fish."

But the price has come back for the likes of monkfish, lemon sole and crab, he acknowledged.

Martin Leyland of Shetland Seafood Auctions, which runs the electronic fish auctions at Lerwick and Scalloway said: "These are extraordinary times and we are reviewing the situation from day to day."



## ORKNEY NEWS *By Craig Taylor*

### Kirkwall Lifeboat to be replaced during 50th anniversary year

The RNLI recently announced that it will extend the life of its Severn class lifeboats so they can continue saving lives at sea for another 25 years, with Kirkwall set to receive a newly upgraded lifeboat in 2022.

The largest and most powerful class of lifeboat, the Severn entered service for the RNLI back in 1996 and there are currently 44 of these 42 tonne lifesaving vessels in the charity's fleet. With an operational lifespan of 25 years, these lifeboats are now approaching retirement age and are due to come off service soon.

After serving 25 years, Kirkwall Lifeboat *Margaret Foster* will be withdrawn from service in 2022, being replaced with a life extended upgraded Severn lifeboat, in what will be the year of the 50th anniversary of the lifeboat station being established in Kirkwall.

The RNLI's expert in-house engineering team has worked in partnership with academic and industry experts, establishing that the Severn lifeboats' hulls can continue operational service for another 25 years. Through a life extension upgrade, the Severn's wheelhouse will be completely redesigned and a wide range of upgrades will be made, ensuring the vessels can operate safely and effectively for another 25 years.



Kirkwall Lifeboat station. (Craig Taylor)

Each upgrade costs £1.25 million, with the Kirkwall boat being financed by two substantial generous donations. This means the new Kirkwall Lifeboat will feature a new name and new RNLI registration number.

As well as fitting the lifeboats out with

more modern and sophisticated technology and systems, the upgraded Severns will have significant safety enhancements to ensure the RNLI's volunteer crews are as safe as possible while out saving lives at sea in all weathers.

### ORKNEY COMPANY SHIP WINS AWARD



The Alfred. (Picture Darren More)

Orkney company Pentland Ferries says that the company is delighted to have won Ship of the Year, in the ferries category, of the new International Cruise and Ferry Review (ICFR) Ship of the Year awards.

The ships nominated surpassed readers' expectations in terms of innovative construction and design, onboard

amenities and experiences, and environmental stewardship.

MV *Alfred* was one of five ships to make the shortlist in the ferries category. Readers were then invited to vote for their favourite. Thanks to all Pentland Ferries' loyal supporters, MV *Alfred* was the runaway winner.

Director of Pentland Ferries, Kathryn Scollie, said: "It was a lovely surprise to learn that we

had been nominated and reached the final five in our category, so we were absolutely delighted to be announced the winner.

"We are so grateful to everyone who took the time to vote for us. We truly appreciate all our loyal customers for their outstanding support.

"We are all very proud of our new environmentally friendly ship and the team that ensures

we deliver a winning service."

Pentland Ferries are an Orcadian family business who run a ferry service connecting Orkney to the mainland. The service runs from Gills Bay in Caithness to St Margaret's Hope in Orkney and can accommodate foot passengers, cars, bikes, tour buses and freight on the short crossing (approx. one hour).

### Orkney fishing industry hit hard by coronavirus crisis

#### Shellfish boat owners see vital overseas markets collapse



Inshore boats tied up at Kirkwall Harbour (Mason Taylor)

The Orkney fishing industry is facing extreme challenges brought on by the coronavirus crisis.

Fiona Matheson, secretary of the Orkney Fisheries Association explained the situation faced by those working in the industry as shellfish markets collapsed.

In a situation which can change daily, speaking on Sunday, March 22, she said: "The dive scallop sector in Orkney began to tie up on March 12, which for inshore fishing vessels means no income for fishermen. This was closely followed by a sudden collapse in the market for high end shellfish – crab, lobster, prawns, the kinds of quality shellfish that dominates the catch of the majority of the vessels in Orkney.

"For the inshore fleet there are no markets or only markets offering very poor prices

only. As boats are habitually paid in arrears many are already out of pocket waiting for payments and those still fishing shellfish are struggling to cover expenses.

"As no one is eating in restaurants in the UK and continent there is no demand for live shellfish. With Spain on lockdown, where the valuable velvet crab catch goes, boats have had to release all their velvet crabs back into the sea. At least crustaceans will live when returned live to the sea.

"Whitefish landings for haddock whiting and saithe have held up within the UK home market, but some fleets are only operating a 50 per cent capacity. Supermarkets are to close their fresh fish counters and will be looking for pre frozen and pre packed fish. High end catches like monkfish are also in trouble."

On what she has been doing on behalf of the OFA in light of the situation, she explained: "My entire focus over the last week has been in talks with Scottish Government, DEFRA and the UK Scottish

Office to bring home the dire circumstances this 'surge' event is causing within the shellfish catching fleet.

"Many fishermen are self-employed and are not entitled to any unemployment, sickness benefit. They also have mortgages, rents, utility bills and bank loans to pay. Sadly the chancellor's help to self-employed fishermen goes nowhere near enough. They will only get a rate to £94 per week of statutory sick pay with possibly a long wait before they qualify.

"Scottish Government are now looking to plug the immediate cash shortage for full time fishermen, so an injection of money will go to all Scottish registered vessels under 12meters in length which are fishing for their sole income. Government staff will be contacting licence holders as of March 21 to arrange payment to them.

"Where licence holders have crew there is an expectation that this money will enable them to pay crew while markets are down and prices poor. The cash injection

is about keeping people able to pay their immediate bills. It is acknowledged at government level that this is just a start and it has been recognised that this part of the sector is being hit hardest right now.

"For the boats over 12m hit by the shellfish crash I along with others in the industry nationally are talking directly with government in Scotland on helping them. Many need immediate stop on business bank loans and interest payments due on their vessels. Some are carrying large numbers of crew that need paid with no money coming in due to a large number of the buyers and processors that they sell to across Scotland closing, reducing staff and filling up their cold stores."

She added further: "Things are changing daily. There are still lots of fantastic fish and shellfish in the sea and I would hope that there might be a chance to enable fishermen to provide this essential food source directly to the public in different ways. We are working with

Seafood Scotland and Scottish Government to push for relaxation on regulations to allow processors to alter their production lines as well as enabling fishermen to sell more directly to buyers."

As far as the normal functioning of OFA goes, the organisation has had to postpone its AGM, and all normal meeting and decision making has been put on hold indefinitely. The office is closed with staff opting to work from home. OFA are continuing to maintain supplies to the fuel tanks through our company Orkney Marine Oil.

Finally, Mrs Matheson added: "Orkney is surrounded by fantastic fish and shellfish. Fish is easy to cook and a fantastic source of protein so if there is any silver lining in this awful crisis it may be that Orkney kitchens will be making lovely big pots of Cullen Skink and Crab Soup. Nothing is simpler, tatties, onions your choice of fish and a tin of carnation milk. Boil away and serve it up and freeze some extra for later."

## Boulogne fleet ties up due to coronavirus



Boulogne-sur-Mer

On Monday, March 16, around 80 fishing boats in Boulogne-sur-Mer, France's busiest fishing port, were told to return to port, following an agreement between fishermen and merchants to tie up the Boulogne fleet due to the knock-on impacts of coronavirus.

The decision was made in the wake of plummeting demand and prices, as the impact of restrictions aimed

at curtailing the spread of the virus made themselves felt right across the sector (both in France and, indeed, across the fleet here in Ireland).

With Italy already on lockdown, on Saturday, March 14 France and Spain became the latest European countries to go into coronavirus lockdown, closing all non-essential businesses, including restaurants and cafés – the reverberations of which were felt almost immediately in

European seafood markets, sending those markets into freefall.

Reports from France indicate that in just one week falling demand saw prices for langoustines plummet from 13 euro to 6.80 euro per kg, sole from 17 euro to 8 euro per kg and turbot from 35 euro to 12 euro per kg, with much fish at auctions going unsold.

Speaking to *The Skipper* regarding the decision to tie up the fleet, Olivier Leprêtre,

chairman of the regional fisheries committee in northern France said markets had hit rock bottom and fishing was no longer profitable.

Expressing the gravity of the situation now facing fishermen, Mr Leprêtre said it would be hard for the sector to recover. He said the stops would likely be temporary and French fishermen would require a range of support measures, including from the banks.

## Industry committed to continuing supply but needs support, say EAPO and Europêche

Despite the corona-crisis hitting seafood markets hard, the

European Association of Fish Producers Organisations (EAPO) and European fishing group Europêche say they are committed to maintaining a supply of seafood for EU consumers during the crisis

In a joint position paper sent to EU decision-makers, the fishing groups state, however, that "as one of the essential sectors of the European food supply chain it is crucial that governments—be it national or European—devise and take measures that allow, or better, encourage fishermen to continue with their fishing activities and supply European consumers with seafood."

Highlighting some of the existing and expected effects of the crisis on fishing activities from various disruptions to operational activity to the collapse in first-sale prices and of markets entirely, the EAPO and Europêche say the sector is now facing trade and value

chain disruptions as well as evaporating market demand resulting in falling price levels; and the temporary cessation of fishing operations.

Along with the Commission's recently proposed Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative announced on March 13th, which the European fishing groups have welcomed, the EAPO and Europêche identify a number of critical measures which they say are needed "to effectively tackle the already severe problems that are expected to exacerbate and spread further across the Union as the COVID-19 deepens its presence in our societies".

In this regard, the EAPO and Europêche request that:

- Fishermen are given the option to carry over more than the existing 10% of their fishing quotas to next year – as defined under the Flexibility Regulation or art 15(9) of the Basic Regulation and as has been implemented in previous circumstances.

- Minimum price mechanisms are established through POs, in which the State helps finance these activities, ensuring that intervention prices are fair prices, that would cover the operational expenses.

- Guarantees are provided through state emergency plans that the logistic services can distribute seafood products at fair prices both to producer and consumer.

- Measures are adopted that guarantee the logistical need of crews and vessels in terms of transport of fish, transport of crews, transport of gear and supplies needed to continue the activity and so on, adjusting also required health as needed.

Alongside these, the fishing groups have also urged policy-makers to modify the EMFF regulation in order to quickly adjust and provide financial aid for those fishing companies that are forced to cease their operations for reasons such as

member states measures to avoid the spread of the COVID-19, designation of high-risk areas, crew infections or lack of market demand.

The EAPO and Europêche have also called on Member States to introduce national measures such as VAT reduction and tax exemptions or deferrals. In conjunction, they have requested that, in light of current developments, the Brexit transition period is extended by another 12 months and have called for temporarily pausing current legislative and regulatory processes. All efforts, they say, must focus on the crisis at hand.

In a statement discussing the proposals, Daniel Voces, managing director of Europêche said: "Our fishermen are doing a fantastic job. While far away from their homes and families, they continue bringing healthy seafood to our plates in a very challenging environment. They deserve the full attention of our public authorities to secure their safety, their economies and the continuity of the food supply".

## Joint UK action group on coronavirus formed

### NFFO says lack of support for the self-employed is an obvious gap in Government's package

A joint fishing sector/government action group has been formed in the UK to work on urgent measures to support the fishing industry through the coronavirus emergency. At the time of writing, in terms of the measures that have already been announced by the UK Government, the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations (NFFO) says the lack of support for self-employed fishermen is an obvious gap in the Government's already announced support package.

According to the NFFO, the most immediate effect of the global pandemic being felt by the fishing industry is a liquidity crisis, where demand has reduced and in some cases dried up completely. Following a telephone conference among stakeholders in the UK, it has been agreed to work on a support package in four key areas:

1. The development of alternative markets and alternative routes to market, with Government playing a role in facilitating the shift to meet new demand in the domestic market.
2. Direct and indirect financial support, with the immediate task being to understand the content of the Chancellor's £350 billion support package: to understand to what extent this will be relevant and of use to the fishing sector, and to identify where additional support will be required.
3. Regulatory changes: the group is to work on reducing regulatory burdens where these impede an adequate response to the crisis.
4. Development of an adaptive joint industry/government approach to the different aspects of the crisis as they evolve

A wide range of stakeholders from across the country and across the supply chain brought their different concerns and insights to the discussion, says the NFFO, however a smaller, more focused group will be required to work up proposals.

In terms of evolving impacts on the industry, according to the NFFO, businesses in the fishing, fish marketing and fish processing sectors face potentially existential challenges, related to short

term liquidity. Crew incomes will be directly and immediately affected, they say.

The virus, they state, has impacted sequentially, with the market for crab being the first affected, but with rolling consequences for other species and sectors as social distancing advice has taken effect. Although temporary in nature, the scale of the shock in the fishing sector is likely to be very severe, they warn.

Acknowledging that businesses and representative organisations have a responsibility to take what steps are available to mitigate the economic and social consequences of the contagion, they state that it is the government's responsibility, however, to provide temporary support, where the market or sector initiatives are inadequate to the scale of the problems generated by the virus; or where generic government support is inadequate

Government and sector, they say, are agreed on a partnership approach, in this regard.

In terms of challenges, the NFFO have highlighted that primary producers will be affected directly by the coronavirus, as crews become infected, or self-isolate in line with government advice.

Fishing is also indirectly affected by downstream impacts from dramatic falls in demand in different parts of the market, with the NFFO highlighting difficulties regarding the closure of restaurants, export markets, and the supermarket trade, in terms of the closure of fish counters and increased demand for tinned and frozen fish by consumers.

Regarding home consumption, they say, there is potential to expand but this is limited by difficulties in accessing fish and shellfish, following supermarkets decision to close fish counters after driving traditional fishmongers out of business. Doorstep deliveries, they say, of fresh fish by van has great potential in the current circumstances and is being trialled in Cornwall and other locations.

In terms of a response, the challenge is to build a package of support that is relevant for the fishing sector. Overall, according to the NFFO, there is a determination, where it is an option, to

keep boats at sea, keep crews intact, keep supply chains supplied, keep continuity of food security.

In cases where demand has fallen away completely, support will need to take the form of maintaining the potential to start again when the health crisis diminishes, and this is the task facing the sector and government. According to the NFFO, a two-pronged approach will probably be required:

- Support to keep fleets working and supply chains supplied
- A form of tie-up aid where markets have collapsed completely

As to whether the response announced by the Government so far hits the right targets, in a separate statement issued the NFFO says that some of the measures announced to date will be relevant and significant for the sector. Many, they say, will not due to the peculiarities of the way the industry is organised.

The immediate challenge is therefore to identify the support measures available which can be used and the gaps which will need to be filled by additional tailored interventions.

Workers in the food industries have been designated as key workers, along with those employed in transport and so exempt from some social distancing requirements. This, says the NFFO, should help to ensure that supply chains remain operational.

The Government's support measures include direct grants to businesses in the hospitality sector but the main support (£300 billion of the £350 billion) is earmarked for loans available to struggling firms. The massive intervention to support those in waged employment by meeting 80% of each worker's wages (up to £2500), however, will not be available to the self-employed, including self-employed share fishermen.

This, they say, is an obvious gap and is why an urgent package shaped to provide meaningful aid to the fishing sector is needed and is currently being worked on. At the time of writing an announcement to this end was expected.

## Danish fishermen feel coronavirus effects

The Danish Fishermen's Association PO has welcomed the Danish government's Corona initiative for small and medium-sized businesses. The PO, however, has called for additional measures such as the return of VAT and the postponement of loan repayments.

Acknowledging that the mitigation measures implemented to halt of the spread of the virus are necessary, Svend-Erik

Andersen, President of the Danish Fishermen's Association highlighted that those measures have, however, also resulted in a fall in demand for seafood from restaurants and eateries.

On account of this, Danish fishermen, like many others, are finding their catches are being sold for low prices at auctions and many are now finding themselves being squeezed financially.

Welcoming already

announced initiatives to help businesses such as postponing VAT and tax payments—which, says Svend-Erik Andersen, will help with liquidity in the fishery—the PO has also called on the Danish government to refund VAT payments from the fourth quarter of 2019, and postpone loan repayments.

The PO will also be contacting the relevant banks to call for an extension of credits and loans to the fisheries sector.



Svend-Erik Andersen

## Mooney Boats announce two new builds for Castletownbere



Last month, Mooney Boats announced two new exciting build projects for Castletownbere – B50 *Eilean Croine* for Eric Murphy, and B51 *Sparkling Star* for Donal O'Neill.

The new vessels will replace the 1980 built *Eilean Croine* and 1975 built *Sparkling Star*.

Though there is much to be finalised in terms of the equipment on board the 31 meter pair, both fitouts are due to take place in Killybegs.

Congratulations to Eric Murphy, Donal O'Neill and Mooney Boats from everyone here at *The Skipper*.

An artist's impression of the two new boats, *Eilean Croine* and *Sparkling Star*. All images courtesy of Mooney Boats Ltd.



## New look Rachel Jay finally arrives home to Kinsale

After a major overhaul in Spain and some hurdles along the way, Johnny Walsh's 1991 built *Rachel Jay* finally arrived home to Kinsale early last month, with a completely new look for this previously instantly recognisable boat.

Designed by Donegal based AtlanTek Maritime, the refurb was carried out at Aviles Boatyard and involved extensive interior and exterior refurbishment and redesign.

A full feature on the by all accounts 'new' *Rachel Jay* will appear in a future issue of *The Skipper*, however, in the meantime we would like to wish Johnny, skipper and crew all the best and safe fishing with the overhauled *Rachel Jay*.



Rachel Jay. Image taken by Michael Doherty

## A message from the Editor



Mending on Dinish Island Pier Castletownbere. Image Niall Duffy

The magnitude of change that has occurred in all of our lives in the short three and a half weeks or so since we put together last month's *Skipper* is difficult to comprehend. Reflecting simply on the content of *The Skipper* we have gone from two articles last month about the global coronavirus pandemic, to struggling to write about or find space for anything else other than the social and economic dislocation it is causing.

As with many others, how we all operate at (or for some of us rather no longer physically at) *The Skipper* has changed and we envisage that may change even further over the coming weeks and months. Will there be any news to report on other than that relating to coronavirus one month from now?

While we are not sure if we or anyone else can answer that or what the coming months may mean for *The Skipper* in terms of length or content, we can guarantee our commitment to you, our readers and Ireland's fishing industry.

Whatever happens amidst the great uncertainty we all face, over the coming months we will strive to continue to provide you with up to date news and interesting features across our various platforms, from the print edition to our social media accounts and new website.

In this regard, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all our readers,

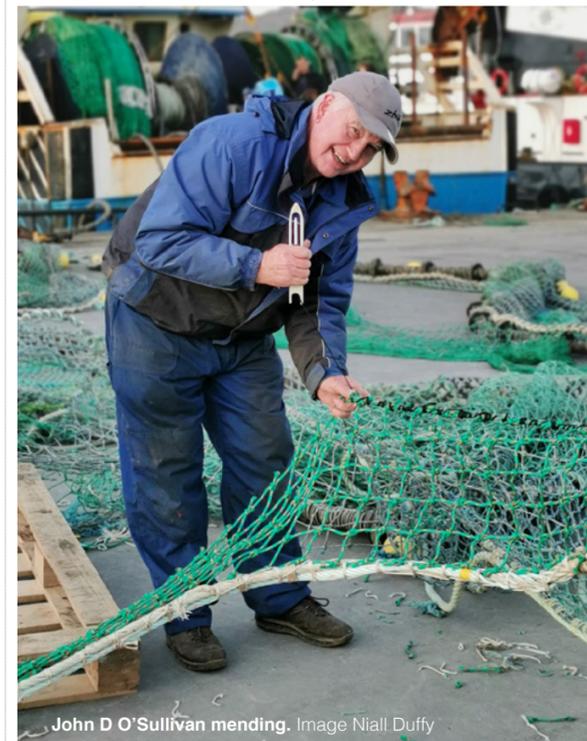
subscribers, advertisers, and contributors for your continued support – without you, we couldn't put *The Skipper* out every month, or keep those various platforms going that tick away busily throughout the month.

As a final message, and to ensure that the future is not one corona-haze we would ask you to send in your stories, and images to us over the coming weeks and months, as you always do. Life, however strange, does go on.

As always, all stories,

issues, calls and emails are welcome. We will do our best to address them, however, at this difficult time we would also ask our readers and contributors to remember to send in also the good news stories, and the pictures of smiling faces.

The industry is resilient, it has been through tough times before. And though the current situation is unprecedented, we have no doubt that by supporting one another we will all manage to come through this and make it to the other side.



John D O'Sullivan mending. Image Niall Duffy

## NEWS in brief

### Blue Whiting MSC certification in question

Following on from the suspension of northeast Atlantic mackerel's Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Certification last year for similar reasons, blue whiting's MSC certification is the latest to come into question, while Atlanto-Scandic herring has until the end of this year to escape the same fate as northeast Atlantic mackerel suffered last autumn.

In a similar vein as northeast Atlantic mackerel and Atlanto-Scandic herring, blue whiting's certification requires that specific requirements concerning harvest control rules are met (i.e. management). Like both other species, again, the lack of international agreement on quotas could mean suspension of the fishery's certification.

Analysis by scientists from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) indicates the stock's spawning stock biomass is on a downwards trend. And the unilateral setting of quotas by Iceland, Greenland and Russia has been cited as especially problematic.

### Norway increases bluefin quota

As stocks continue to increase, the Norwegian Fisheries Directorate has allocated bluefin tuna quotas to 11 Norwegian vessels for 2020, up from 8 in 2019.

The allocation comes following the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna's (ICCAT) approval at the beginning of March of Norway's 2020 fishing plan, which means, among other things, that the country will be allowed to transfer 5 per cent (11.95 tonnes) of unused quota from 2019 to 2020, bringing the total Norwegian quota for 2020 up to some 312 tonnes.

If correctly managed the first sale value of the allocated quota could amount to NOK 60 million – converted to euro that's more than €50 million! Meanwhile, in Ireland, commercial fishermen can only dream...

### Grimsby Fish Market closes its doors

With seafood markets taking a battering, at the time of writing Grimsby's Fish Market looks set to suspend all sales from Thursday, March 26. Quayside facilities will, however, remain open for landings.

The decision to cease sales has been taken as fish supplies and markets continue to be hard by the coronavirus pandemic, both directly and indirectly, which has seen fish prices plummet.

Over the past weeks, the market had managed to remain operational for three days a week (Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays), though it had closed its doors to the public. However, Boris Johnson's lockdown announcement on March 24 and the implications that will now have for domestic demand means even that will no longer be feasible.

*Endurance* entering the crew's homeport for the first time after taking command of the boat.

All images by Ivan Reid



# ENDURANCE

## ENDURANCE MAKES HER FIRST TRIP TO FLUGGA

By Peter Johnson,  
Shetland News

**A** NEW Whalsay fishing partnership was taking its first hauls north of Flugga early last month with its trawler *Endurance* (LK 416). The 75ft vessel has been bought from Skerries partners Leslie and Colin Hughson and Leonard Johnson who had operated her for a long time as *Fairway II*.

The first tow yielded seven boxes, including four of monkfish, but more importantly, the gear was all working fine, said one of the partners, Ian Irvine, who is also the father of two of the other partners.

Grant and Ben Irvine, skipper Ed Leask, David Irvine and fish selling agents LHD complete the partnership set-up. Grant, 24, is mate on the vessel while his brother Ben, 22, and 24-year-old David are both engineers.

Ian, who has run Ian Irvine engineering for the past 24 years, has no plans to go back to sea other than the occasional summer trip.

Ian said that a big thank you was owed the LHD who had helped massively sorting out licences and quotas plus their investment. "It would not have been possible without the LHD," he said.

Well wishers boarding at Symbister for a look around the *Endurance*.



Ed and Grant had been on board the new *Guardian Angell* previously while Ben was the second skipper on the *Opportune*. Ian said that the boys were destined for fishing from a young age since he made tin boats for them that they used to tow in the ebb. "It's all they

have been interested in, all they have ever known. My great-grandfather, my grandfather and my father were all fishermen. I was seven years on the *Research* and a spell on the *Contest* before I took the daft decision to do engineering work on Whalsay," said Ian.

Owners and crewman of the *Endurance* L to R: Ian Irvine (of Ian Irvine Engineering Owner), David Irvine (2nd Engineer), Edward Leask (Skipper), Grant Irvine (2nd Skipper) and Ben Irvine (Engineer).



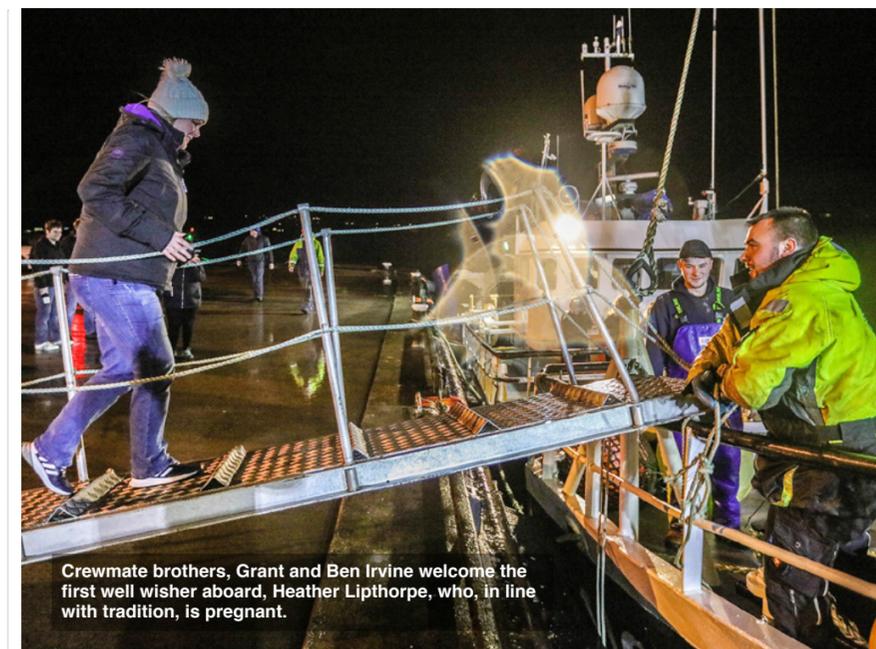
The *Endurance* was originally built for a Peterhead crew by Simek AS in 1989, before the Skerries partners, who are now building a new boat, bought her. She is a good solid boat which had been very well looked after by her previous owners, said Ian. New nets from LHD, ropes and other towing gear are being used as well as 3.25 square metre "high efficiency" Morgere trawl doors that replace the old, heavier, 6 square metre doors. Her engine, a Caterpillar 3508 V8, was thoroughly overhauled during the Christmas lay-up in 2018. Doubts whether the smaller doors would spread the gear have been dispelled and the lighter gear makes towing a bit easier.

The net drums have also proved sufficient to take the larger nets, said Ian. The decision was taken to install new fish finding and plotting gear in the wheelhouse as the boys were familiar with this equipment from their previous vessels and it would have to be installed sooner or later anyway. Licences and quotas for the *Endurance* had to be assembled from scratch and while the boat has enough quota to get into the local fish producers' organisation, the SFPO, she is still renting a lot of fish, which is a bit of a gamble, said Ian.

Fish can be rented at so much per box, but the profitability of that deal depends on the expense of catching plus the amount the fish sells for, leaving much uncertainty.

According to Ian, the system allows quota to shift into the hands of investors, something that does not benefit active fishermen.

It is just one of the many financial difficulties facing young potential partnerships wanting to get into a highly profitable sector that is owned and crewed by an ageing workforce. But the fact that the young partners



Crewmate brothers, Grant and Ben Irvine welcome the first well wisher aboard, Heather Liphorpe, who, in line with tradition, is pregnant.

who own the *Courageous* are investing in a new trawler after only four years is a sign of a buoyant and confident future.

They are continuing to fish with the old vessel, formerly called *Guardian Angell*, while the new one is built at Karstensen's in Denmark and is expected to be complete next year.

Meanwhile, the Skerries partners are having a new 28m long replacement for the *Fairway II* fitted out at Mooney's Boats in Killybegs.

The hull of this vessel was built in Poland.

The *Endurance* deal was signed on Tuesday, February 25, the birthday of Ian's mother Jean Mary Irvine, and *Endurance* was back in Whalsay for a public inspection by Friday 28. Ian said that there were over 35 intact bottles of whisky brought as hampers on *Endurance* when he did the Saturday redd-up.

"Hopefully we will not be needing all that luck, but the more good luck you have the better," he said.

## Stressed-trout: how climate change is impacting the lives of our native trout species



Sea trout. Image by T Jackson

UCC researchers show that increased water temperatures and reduced food supply strongly affect where trout decide to live – with more trout opting to stay in rivers as things heat up. This could seriously decrease the sea trout population as the climate continues to change.

Little is known about why some fish migrate to sea and others do not—some brown trout make the decision to leave the river where they are born and head to the sea in search of more food, or mates, or to get away from unpleasant river conditions—conditions which will be made much worse by climate change.

Researchers from UCC asked the question of how changes in water temperature and

the amount of available food (both affected by climate change) influence the migration of brown trout. By rearing young of wild trout for two years under conditions of reduced food and increased temperature, and then recording the numbers of future sea-going migrants, the team found that food reduction increased the numbers of migrating fish, but warm temperatures had the opposite effect, where fewer fish chose to migrate to sea, instead remaining resident in fresh water.

Lead author on the study (published last month in *Global Change Biology*) Louise Archer of the Environmental Research Institute in UCC, remarked, “Brown trout are iconic for their ability to undertake impressive migrations to sea, yet we still

know little about why some fish choose to migrate, and why others remain resident in fresh water rivers and lakes. What makes a sea trout has been an ongoing source of interest for biologists.”

With conflicting pressures mounting, trout will become under increased pressure to make complex decisions about whether they should migrate. The study noticed that fish choosing migration were smaller and in poorer condition than fish that remained in fresh water, indicating sea migration occurred when the fish urgently needed to consume more food. But how will they balance this with the urge to remain in the ever warmer rivers?

“Understanding how climate change will affect migratory ‘sea trout’ is crucial to successful management and conservation of the species,” notes Archer, “particularly since many sea trout populations have shown dramatic declines across Europe in recent years. Our study sheds some light on this enduring question by highlighting how warming temperatures cause fewer fish to migrate to sea, with more fish remaining in fresh water to reproduce earlier. Worryingly, our research suggests that with climate warming, we may see further declines in sea-going trout.”

The full article is available here: Food and temperature stressors have opposing effects in determining flexible migration decisions in brown trout (*Salmo trutta*). Archer et al. *Global Change Biology*, In Press

## US study into the potential effects of wind energy on commercial fisheries

Researchers in the United States are studying the potential effects of wind energy on commercial fisheries, using underwater acoustic technology.

NOAA Fisheries scientists and colleagues have started a three-year study of Atlantic cod and other commercial fish species in Southern New England, with the aim of gathering baseline data to address how offshore wind development in the region could affect these species.

An autonomous underwater glider is surveying a number of areas in and around Cox’s Ledge, one of the most important cod fishing grounds in southern New England, and one that includes the South Fork wind energy lease area south of Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The glider has a hydrophone to detect fish spawning sounds and an acoustic

telemetry receiver to detect tagged fish. The receiver will identify location and seasonal occurrence of hotspots for key commercial and federally listed fish species.

According to project lead Sofie Van Parijs, who also heads the Passive Acoustics Research Group at the Northeast Fisheries Science Center laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, there is little information on Atlantic cod spawning specific to Southern New England waters. Cod elsewhere are known to form large, dense spawning aggregations in predictable locations relatively close to shore, where they can be vulnerable to disturbance that might affect spawning success.

“Biological sampling will determine the population’s onset of spawning and track growth,

maturity, age structure, and other life history parameters,” Van Parijs said.

“This information will help inform the starting date for our glider surveys each year. We will tentatively conduct these surveys from December through March this year and for longer periods in the subsequent two years.”

Researchers will tag up to 100 spawning cod with acoustic transmitters that the glider can detect to identify areas where spawning is occurring. Sensors on the glider will also collect detailed environmental data to better understand the temperature preferences and habitat use of Atlantic cod off Southern New England.

A glider deployed in late December 2019 has already been at sea for 3 months, surveying the area three times, detecting whale vocalizations and fish

carrying acoustic tags.

Researchers using local vessels to conduct the field work have deployed an array of 10 bottom-mounted acoustic telemetry receivers in and around the South Fork wind lease area. This array tracks movements and residency patterns of spawning cod, and will be expanded in the future.

The project is funded by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. Participating organisations include NOAA Fisheries Northeast Fisheries Science Center, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, The Nature Conservancy, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth School for Marine Science & Technology, NOAA’s Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office and Rutgers University.

## Man-made noise hampers crab camouflage and defensive responses

Colour-changing crabs struggle to camouflage themselves when exposed to noise from ships, new research shows.

Today the marine environment is experiencing unprecedented levels of human-made (anthropogenic) noise, which scientists have shown impacts on organisms in a range of different, and oftentimes negative ways, affecting sensory systems and behaviours.

A paper published on March 9 in the journal *Current Biology* by University of Exeter scientists shows that human-made noise—in their study from shipping—reduces colour change and consequent camouflage in juvenile shore crabs (*Carcinus maenas*).

Crabs exposed to hourly ship noise, the researchers found, change colour half as quickly, and as a result don’t match the background as closely.

They found also that the noise affects the crabs’ behaviour. Shore crabs, often found in rock pools, usually stay still or scuttle for cover if a predator approaches, but ship noise disrupted these abilities, negatively affecting their defensive responses, with crabs less likely to flee a simulated attack.

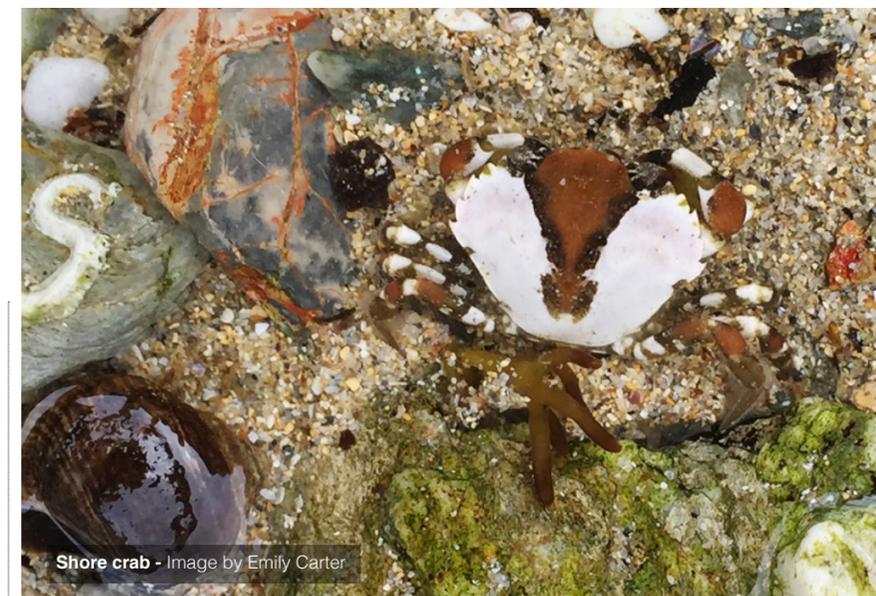
In contrast to the human-made noise, ‘natural’ ocean sounds played as loudly as ship noise did not affect crab camouflage or behaviour, the study found.

According to the researchers, their study shows that human-made noise is likely to be more disruptive than previously anticipated.

They state: “In common with other marine invertebrates, shore crabs may perceive sound, but they rely predominantly on other senses.

“As such, the effects of anthropogenic sound in the marine environment extend beyond interfering with acoustic communication, affecting behavioural and physiological responses across a wide range of species.”

Speaking of the study, lead author Emily Carter, who led the study as part of her MRes at Exeter’s Penryn Campus in Cornwall said,



Shore crab - Image by Emily Carter

“Ship noise is a major source of underwater sound pollution.

“Previous studies have often focussed on how this affects species that rely on sound.

“Shore crabs don’t depend heavily on sound—so our finding that noise affects their behaviour and ability to camouflage themselves suggests ship noise might affect a very wide range of species.”

Professor Martin Stevens, of Exeter’s Sensory Ecology and Evolution group, added: “Our study shows that humans and noise pollution can substantially affect features of animals such as their colouration that are crucial to survival.

“If crabs are less well concealed, and less likely to run away, they are more likely to get eaten by predators.”

The study focussed on juvenile shore crabs, which change colour gradually and can make more dramatic changes when they moult (shedding their shell as they grow).

The crabs in the study were housed in one of three tanks, and were exposed either to quiet underwater sounds, an hourly recording of a ship passing (played to simulate the ship being about 200 metres away) or an hourly loud occurrence of underwater sounds.

The crabs were all dark-shelled at the start. After eight weeks in the white-bottomed tanks,



How ship noise affected colour change in shore crabs

all had become paler.

However, those exposed to ship noise only changed around half as much as those in the other tanks, leaving them much less camouflaged.

When exposed to a predator (simulated by an artificial bird) more than 85% of crabs exposed to quiet or loud natural sounds responded by rushing for cover.

The crabs exposed to ship noise responded normally when the noise wasn’t being played – but during noise episodes, about half responded more slowly than usual and the other half didn’t respond at all.

“The size and strength of adult shore crabs mean they have other defences, but juveniles rely heavily on concealment and are attacked by many predators, from fish to birds—so a reduction in their camouflage ability and anti-predator behaviour could be a big problem,” said Carter.

“Previous studies have suggested that a lot of energy may be used during colour change, and stress is also thought to be costly in terms of energy.

“So, the most likely explanation for our findings is that the stress caused by ship noise means crab don’t have as much energy to devote to camouflage.”

Professor Tom Tregenza, of the University of Exeter, said: “We already knew that noise can be disruptive to marine animals, but a breakthrough from this study is to show that the racket ships make is much more disruptive than natural noise, even if the natural noise is equally loud.”

The paper, ‘Ship noise inhibits colour change, camouflage, and anti-predator behaviour in shore crabs’, is open access and can be found at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2020.01.014>



Shore crab - Image by Emily Carter

## Cullen Fellow co-creates a food web model for the Irish Sea with scientists and fishermen



Jacob Bentley, a PhD student at the Scottish Association for Marine Science and Cullen Fellow at the Marine Institute.

Jacob Bentley is a PhD student at the Scottish Association for Marine Science and Cullen Fellow at the Marine Institute. He has been working with scientists and fishermen to develop a food web model of the Irish Sea to advise on the sustainable management of fisheries and improve our understanding of this ecosystem.

“Food webs describe who eats whom. Made of interconnected food chains, food webs help us understand how any changes in the ecosystem can affect many different species,” Jacob explains. “The Irish Sea food model includes everything from seaweed and plankton to sharks and whales, with a strong focus on commercial species such as cod, whiting, haddock and plaice.”

Over the past century, the

commercial fish and shellfish stocks in the Irish Sea have changed dramatically. Cod, whiting and sole have been in decline and have failed to recover in the region despite a reduced fishing effort. Fishermen and scientists came together in 2015 to establish the first International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) Working Group called WKIrish, to integrate ecosystem information into the assessment of commercial fish stocks.

Jacob has been working with WKIrish to build a food web model of the Irish Sea, by using information shared by fishermen and scientists as well as traditional fisheries data. Jacob says working with fishermen is a great experience and also extremely valuable to this research.

“Having scientists and

fishermen work together to create the Irish Sea model, strengthens this relationship and also builds a roadmap for future collaboration,” Jacob said. “This new food web model is a tool for exploring the past, present and future consequences of management decisions and factors such as climate change. The model will also be able to provide temporal advice for sustainable fisheries management and species conservation.

“It has been a massive honour to have a role in the development of ecosystem-based advice for the Irish Sea, but it has also been incredibly challenging. We’ve had to develop novel research methods and overcome multiple challenges to find ways for our research to have a real-world impact,” Jacob says.

Jacob said one of the biggest benefits of being part of the Cullen Fellowship Programme is the opportunity to meet and work with some incredible people at the Marine Institute. “Their research expertise and relationships with the fishing industry have been fundamental to my project. They are also supportive, providing help with research dissemination and making me aware of new opportunities for my personal development as an early career researcher.”

Jacob’s research supervisors are Dr Clive Fox, Dr Natalia Serpetti and Professor Sheila Heymans of The Scottish Association for Marine Science, and Professor David Reid, Marine Institute.

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

This project (Grant-Aid Agreement No. CF/16/08) is carried out with the support of the Marine Institute and funded under the Marine Research Programme by the Irish Government.

## The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge meet with the Marine Institute during first official visit to Ireland

*Focus on vital role of the ocean in our everyday lives and actions to safeguard it for future generations*

The vital role of the ocean, climate change, and actions to safeguard it for future generations were the focus of conversations between The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and the Marine Institute during the royal couple’s first official visit to Ireland.

Dr Paul Connolly, CEO of the Marine Institute, Ireland’s state agency for marine research, technology development and innovation, along with All-Ireland Ocean Youth Ambassador, Eimear Manning, met with The Duke and Duchess at Howth, North County Dublin on Wednesday, March 4.

During a coastal walk of Howth Head, Dr Connolly spoke to them on several subjects that are central to the work of the Marine Institute including the importance of the oceans to coastal communities and climate adaptation. The Marine Institute, through the BlueFish Project, is working with coastal communities in Ireland and Wales on the importance of the ocean to their livelihoods and the impacts of a changing climate.

Other topics of conversation included Ireland’s role in exploring and mapping the seabed, international collaboration on ocean research, and the Marine Institute’s role in empowering Ireland and its people to safeguard and harness our ocean wealth.

Eimear Manning is one of 23 All-Atlantic Ocean Youth Ambassadors who are supported by the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance (AORA). She is also an environmental education specialist delivering programmes for a variety of environmental and youth-focused charities and Non-Governmental Organisations.

She spoke with The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge about ways to engage with communities, schools and businesses to introduce behavioural change initiatives and programmes for the marine environment. Working with All-Atlantic Ocean Youth Ambassadors across the globe, she strives to promote sustainable development and stewardship of the Atlantic Ocean.

The Marine Institute’s work aligns with The Royal Foundation of The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and its aim to unite people to tackle some of today’s biggest challenges.

In January 2020, Prince William launched the Earthshot Prize, an ambitious set of challenges to inspire a decade of action to repair the planet. These challenges will seek answers to the biggest issues currently facing the planet, including climate and energy, nature and biodiversity, oceans, air pollution and fresh water.

2020 signals a ‘super year’



The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge in Howth, North County Dublin.

Photo: Julien Behal Photography.

for the environment with crucial summits including the COP26 Climate Change Conference in the UK and the Convention on Biodiversity in China and the UN Ocean Conference. This year, European Maritime Day takes place in Cork City, Ireland, with a two-day event (14-15 May) during which Europe’s maritime community meet to discuss and forge joint action on maritime affairs and sustainable blue growth.

Dr Paul Connolly, CEO of the Marine Institute said, “I was delighted to meet with Their Royal

Highnesses, The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, to talk about shared interests in protecting our oceans and adapting to a changing climate.”

“Our oceans are fundamental to life on earth. They unite us – yet they face a multitude of challenges. Our focus in the Marine Institute is to further our understanding of our changing ocean. Our enhanced knowledge and services help us to observe these patterns of change and identify the steps to safeguard our marine ecosystems for future generations.”

## A new Network for Arctic Researchers in Ireland

On Friday 28th of February, the Marine Institute in collaboration with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade launched the Network of Arctic Researchers in Ireland (NARI).

NARI aims to create, maintain and develop an informal all-island network of Arctic researchers in Ireland to facilitate collaboration of scientific activities linked to the Arctic, and to provide independent scientific advice to the public and policy makers.

According to the IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere, the extent of Arctic sea ice is declining and is getting thinner. Glaciers and ice sheets in polar and mountain regions are also losing mass, contributing to an increasing rate of sea level rise, together with expansion of the warmer ocean. Sea level rise will increase the frequency of extreme

sea level events and warming oceans are disrupting marine ecosystems.

With significant demand for greatly enhanced knowledge and services to observe the changes in our oceans, NARI aims to enhance collaboration and promote Irish-based Arctic research activities, seek international polar cooperation and support the next generation of Arctic scientists.

President of NARI, Dr Audrey Morley of National University of Ireland, Galway said, “The coordination of research efforts on a regional, national and international scale is becoming increasingly urgent in order to address the emerging environmental and societal pressures on the Arctic region, which are of global significance. NARI will support a greater scientific understanding of the Arctic region and its role in the

Earth system.”

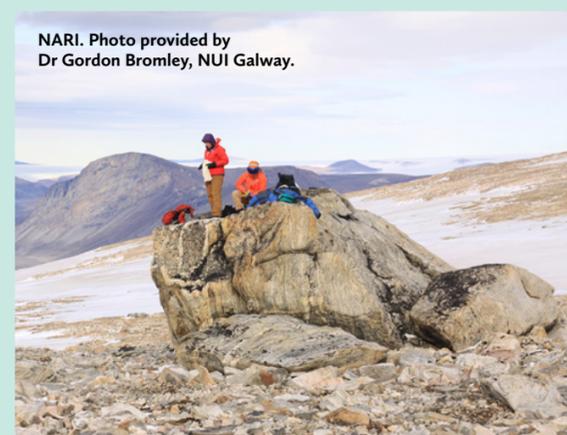
Dr Audrey Morley will be leading a survey on the Marine Institute’s marine research vessel the *RV Celtic Explorer* later this year to improve our understanding of marine essential climate variables in the Nordic Seas. The Marine Institute is providing ship-time funding for this research survey and funding Dr Audrey Morley’s Post-Doctoral Fellowship (Decoding Arctic Climate Change: From Archive to Insight) in support of improving our understanding of Arctic climate change and ecosystems.

Dr Paul Connolly, CEO of the Marine Institute said, “As an Arctic neighbour, Ireland is exposed to the effects of a warming ocean, such as rising sea levels, increasing storm intensity and changing marine ecosystems. Scientists based in Ireland can make a real and meaningful contribution to Arctic

research, and help to develop and implement adaptation responses from local to global scales. The Marine Institute is delighted to be supporting a network which will foster impactful research into the causes, manifestations and impact of Arctic change.”

Since 2018, the Embassy of Ireland in Oslo and the Marine Institute have sponsored early career researchers to attend the Arctic Frontiers Emerging Leaders. It is an annual program held in Tromsø, Norway, which brings together approximately 30 young scientists and professionals from around the world with interests in Arctic security, Arctic economy and Arctic environment.

Ciara Delaney, Regional Director at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, said: “The Department of Foreign Affairs is delighted to host today’s round-table meeting of Irish-based



Arctic researchers. Given the impact of climate change and the increasing relevance of strategic developments in the Arctic, the Arctic region is of growing importance to Ireland.

“A previous roundtable meeting in 2019 demonstrated considerable interest for the establishment of a

national network of researchers to identify and take forward areas of common interest on Arctic issues. Building on this initiative, we are delighted to officially launch the new Network, together with the Marine Institute of Ireland. I hope that NARI can contribute to developing a strong, research-led,

evidence base for Ireland’s growing engagement with the Arctic region.”

The new all-island network (NARI) brings together multidisciplinary scientists from the National University of Ireland Galway, the University of Limerick, the National Maritime College of Ireland, Cork Institute

of Technology, Queens University Belfast, National University of Ireland Maynooth, University College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin and University College Cork.

For more information on the Network of Arctic Researchers in Ireland (NARI) visit [www.nari.ie](http://www.nari.ie)



# Lifeboats

## WOMEN OF THE RNLI

Though the stereotypical image one might have when they imagine an RNLI crew out on a shout may well be a particularly male image, for generations, women have launched lifeboats, hauled people out of the water and fundraised millions for the charity that works to save lives at sea.

Indeed, according to Sue Hennessy, author of *Hidden Depths: Women of the RNLI*, women have played a hands-on role saving lives at sea since the RNLI was formed in 1824. In the early days of the RNLI, lifeboat launch and recover was often undertaken by women, though it was still considered bad luck for women to actually crew the boats.

This began to change as the twentieth century progressed, and in 1969, an 18-year-old Norwegian, Elizabeth Hostvedt, became the first woman to qualify to command an RNLI inshore lifeboat when she was a student at Atlantic College, an international boarding school in Llantwit Major, whose staff and students manned the RNLI Atlantic College Lifeboat Station within its grounds.

The first emergency response involving a female crew, however, would not take place for another two years, when Penelope Sutton, another student at Atlantic College was part of the inshore lifeboat crew which launched to a Swedish motor cruiser reported to be at anchor and flying a distress signal on May 20, 1971 (which turned out to be a false alarm).

In 1981, Frances Glody would become the first female all-weather lifeboat crew member at Dunmore East Lifeboat Station in Ireland, taking over from her retiring father.

These cases would inspire a growing number of women to join lifeboat crews around Britain and Ireland. Today across Britain and Ireland there are 351 female operational crew working with the RNLI. In Ireland alone, there are 58 female crew, 15 in the north and 43 in the south.

As of 2015, 22 women have been awarded medals for their bravery by the RNLI. Further evidence of the long history of women's involvement in the RNLI, in 1983 Grace Darling was the first woman to receive an RNLI medal, when she was awarded the Silver Medal for Gallantry for risking her life and rowing out to save the stranded survivors of the wrecked steamship *Forfarshire* during a storm.

In celebration of the women of the RNLI, the images on these pages have been captured by photographer Jack Lowe at lifeboat stations around Ireland, as part of his quest to photograph all 238 RNLI lifeboat stations on glass plate using a 115-year-old camera, practising a Victorian photographic technique called 'wet plate collodion'.

As part of his Lifeboat Station Project, which has been ongoing for five years, Jack has photographed 147 operational stations including, to date, 26 Irish stations, over 2,000 RNLI volunteers, and has travelled over 35,000 miles around Ireland and Britain in his quest.

Jack's provisional end date is the latter half of 2022, so there are still three years of photographic adventures, and the photographer has still to journey to some of the RNLI's more remote stations, like those on the West Coast of Ireland.

Since he has started his remit has broadened from initially planning to make three images—the crew, the view from the station and the Helm or Coxswain—at each station he visits to capturing portraits of female crew members and station mechanics, in order to highlight their presence as part of the RNLI's lifesaving family.

You can follow Jack's RNLI photographic mission on Instagram (@lordlowe), Facebook (fb.com/LifeboatStationProject), Twitter (@ProjectLifeboat) or on the Project's dedicated site (<http://lifeboatstationproject.com>).

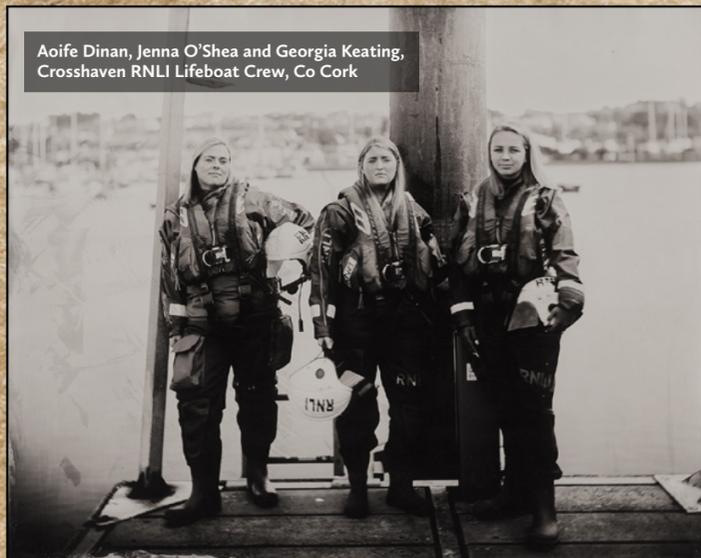
All photos courtesy of Jack Lowe, The Lifeboat Station Project.



Nóirín Phelan and Aoife Lyons,  
Tramore RNLI Crew, Co Waterford



Moira and Sile Walsh (Mother and Daughter),  
Ballycotton RNLI Crew, Co Cork



Aoife Dinan, Jenna O'Shea and Georgia Keating,  
Crosshaven RNLI Lifeboat Crew, Co Cork



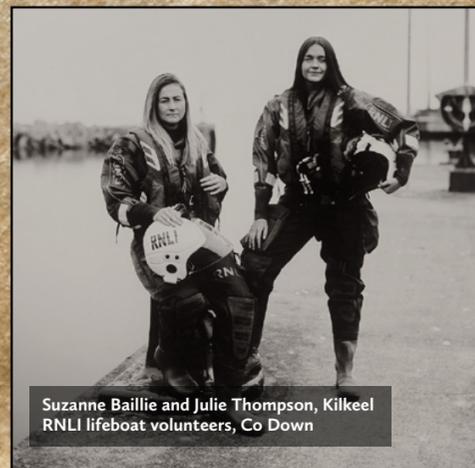
Lorraine McLean, Lisa McCully, Jenni Kelso, Jordan Conway  
and Erin Roddy, Portaferry RNLI lifeboat volunteers, Co Down



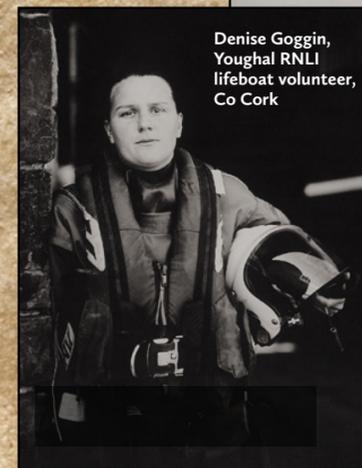
Deborah Smyth and Claudia McAlpin,  
Portrush RNLI lifeboat volunteers, Co Antrim



Rianne Smith, Emma Lupton and Kate Callanan,  
Baltimore RNLI lifeboat volunteers, Co Cork



Suzanne Baillie and Julie Thompson, Kilkeel  
RNLI lifeboat volunteers, Co Down



Denise Goggin,  
Youghal RNLI  
lifeboat volunteer,  
Co Cork



Sheila May, Emma Wilson and Laura Boylan,  
Skerries RNLI lifeboat crew, Co Dublin



Sarah Browne, Union Hall RNLI Crew, Co Cork



Fin Goggin, Howth RNLI lifeboat  
volunteer, Co Dublin

# Women in fisheries fly their flags in Brussels

All photos courtesy of Low Impact Fishers of Europe (LIFE)



More than forty women in fisheries from Ireland, Italy, Croatia, Malta, Cyprus, Spain, the Azores, France and the Netherlands gathered in Brussels to share their stories and build new networks.

**Keara Osborne, Iasc Inis Oírr, reflecting on her experience of the AKTEA event.**



Keara Osborne

“Our first day of meetings was largely devoted to creating connections. Our meetings began with introductions around the room – not, in and of itself, a novel experience. However, the impromptu and organic translations that happened throughout the room as each of us spoke briefly of our experiences in the fishing industry was an amazing and unique experience that made a strong impact on me.

“While I found professional common ground with all women in the room, I particularly connected with the fisherwomen from Malta and Cyprus. Their family fishing businesses are also based on small islands, so it was natural for us to spend time comparing our roles and experiences. Though there are differences in our islands (such as different climates, fish species, and so on); it was interesting to note that the similarities between our jobs far outweighed the differences.

“The strength and resiliency with which the Spanish leaders spoke on the second day were truly inspiring. These women have been speaking out and advocating for their peers in the fishing industry for a long time and had a great deal of experience and advice to pass along to us.”

**By Dr Ruth Brennan**

The end of February saw the relaunch of the AKTEA European Network of Women in Fisheries during a three day event in Brussels, co-organised by AKTEA and LIFE—Low Impact Fishers of Europe—in partnership with the European Economic and Social Committee.

More than forty women in fisheries from Ireland, Italy, Croatia, Malta, Cyprus, Spain, the Azores, France and the Netherlands gathered to share their stories and build new networks.

The aim of the event was to breathe new life into AKTEA, a women in fisheries network that was established in 2006, following a three year exchange programme between European women in fisheries and aquaculture. The name AKTEA derives from Greek mythology – Aktea was the goddess of the shore.

The members of the AKTEA network include independent national and regional level organisations that represent independent fisherwomen, and wives and partners of fishermen, involved in fish processing, sales and administration, fisherwomen (in boats and onshore), shellfish gatherers and net menders.

I was invited by Brian O’Riordan (Executive Secretary of LIFE) and Dr Katia Frangoudes (a founding member of AKTEA) to attend the workshop with a representative of Irish women in fisheries. As my current research project, CO-SUSTAIN (belongingtothesea.com), focuses on small-scale fisheries in the Irish islands, I was keen to find a woman in fisheries

from the islands.

I was delighted when Keara Osborne of Iasc Inis Oírr (@iascinisoirr) agreed to join me, and hugely grateful when MEP Luke ‘Ming’ Flanagan and MEP Grace O’Sullivan kindly agreed to sponsor Keara’s participation in the event. Set up in May 2018, Iasc Inis Oírr is a small family business, selling and processing fresh local crab, pollock, mackerel and lobsters from the Galway island of Inis Oírr, caught in the family’s two small boats.

The first day was very informal and relaxed as we gathered in a circle in the Institute for Cultural Affairs in Brussels for initial introductions. I quickly became aware that we had no official interpreters in the room. As each woman introduced herself in her language of choice, her words were followed by a soft hum of conversation throughout the room as the

unofficial interpreters translated her words to their neighbours. These continuous translation intermissions slowed the rhythm right down, and really allowed a sense of connection and solidarity to build between us, as we listened to stories in unfamiliar languages, repeated in languages we could understand.

The introductions were started by Maria Bekendam, a fisherwoman from the Netherlands, who has been the Chairperson of AKTEA since 2006. “Together with my partner, I run a fishing enterprise. I don’t say ‘I am married to a fisherman’. It’s an important distinction”.

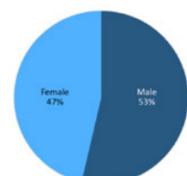
We heard from Emanuela in Istria, Croatia who, together with her sons, daughters and brother, has been running the family business with four fishing boats since her husband passed away in 2009. She was very clear that she identifies as a fisherwoman rather than as a businesswoman.

Also from Istria, Branka explained how she shares the job equally with her husband and spends most of her day at sea – one skippers the boat while the other sets and hauls the nets. They have worked together on their three fishing boats for 20 years.

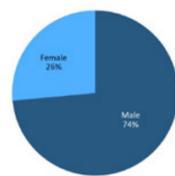
Elena and Stella were both from Cyprus. Elena runs a fishmongers, taking in catch from 20 boats, including her father’s four small boats. Stella has been fishing with her father from a young age – gender was irrelevant to him, she told us. She also prepares the fish boxes and deals with the company administration.

**“The studies must be flawed”, they said.  
“Why are they not seeing all of the women  
in fisheries?”**

## FLAG governance and place of women



FLAG managers



Decision making board

Gender imbalance in FLAG decision making. Source: FARNET

**Correlation:**

% women in decision making boards-

% budget devoted to projects supportive of women

From Malta, we heard from Martes and Lily. Martes works with her husband on his small boat and is also diversifying the business into tourism, to make ends meet. Lily’s main income is from trading as a fishmonger. Her day starts at 2.30 a.m. when she goes to buy the fish. She sells it in the market until 11 a.m., returns home to quickly cook some food, then goes to help her husband prepare the nets for fishing. Somehow, Lily also manages to find time to take care of all the paperwork and go to the pontoon to sell boat trips to tourists.

Keara from Iasc Inis Oírr explained how she cooks, cleans, processes and packages the catch caught by her partner and his father. She is responsible for all of the business paperwork and works with local banks when finance is needed. Keara pointed out that much of the legislation she deals with is written for large fishing companies rather than for the small-scale sector, and that part of her job involves translating that down to what works for them.

Ilidia from the Azores in Portugal elicited a spontaneous round of applause when she told us that she is divorced from her husband and now fishes from her own 7m boat with her daughter.

Raquela from Valencia, Spain comes from a 3rd generation fishing family and does everything from preparing nets and skipping her two boats with another fisherwoman, to selling the fish. They are the only women in Valencia who are qualified skippers and who skipper their own fishing boats.

Anne-Marie from the Basque country in France fished with longlines for 30 years and recently sold her 10m fishing boat so that she could retire. Catherine from Brittany, France works with her husband and two full time employees year-round to harvest seaweed from the shore by hand, using a sickle. They process the seaweed for industrial use and also harvest edible seaweeds to make seaweed tartare. She observed that they are among the last people doing this traditional activity which dates back centuries.

As the introductions drew to a close, the conversations continued to flow as women pulled their chairs into smaller groups that formed organically around their shared experiences and challenges. The fisherwomen from Ireland, Malta and Cyprus talked together about their small businesses that have

integrated catching, processing and selling their fish. I am convinced that the relaxed rhythm and informal flavour of the first day gave many of the women the confidence to speak in the far more formal surrounds of the European Economic and Social Committee, with microphones, headphones, interpreters in booths and various European officials in attendance. The following day, I witnessed these women give articulate accounts of the multiple ways that women are involved in fisheries, from harvesting fish and shellfish, to seaweed gathering, tourism, and management and administration of the business, including Keara Osborne who explained the vertical integration and diversification of Iasc Inis Oírr.

This was preceded by informative briefings about EU fisheries and social policy, gender issues and the rights of women professionals in the sector. We heard from Gabriel Sarró Iparraguirre, EESC Rapporteur, on the importance of the social dimension of fisheries. Brian O’Riordan (LIFE) gave us a history of the EU and its fisheries policies, that really brought down to earth how such policies affect the lives of small scale fishers and fishing communities.

Dr Katia Frangoudes (AKTEA spokesperson) spoke about women’s rights and participation in decision-making. She highlighted European studies that have reported a very low involvement of women in fisheries. This prompted outbursts of disbelief from the women listening.

“The studies must be flawed”, they said. “Why are they not seeing all of the women in fisheries?”

Dr Katia Frangoudes explained that it’s because these studies are only counting women

at the FLAG decision-making table (three times more men than women), where the FLAG board takes decisions on which projects to support. He noted that there is a direct correlation between this imbalance and the percentage of projects directly supporting women in fisheries. In other words, increasing the percentage of women on FLAG decision making boards would result in more projects being funded that directly support women in fisheries. He acknowledged that the FLAGs have work to do in this regard.

In a video address to the meeting, European Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, Virginius Sinkeničius, echoed this recognition of the lack of representation of women in the formal governance structures of the fishing industry. He reiterated his commitment to supporting the social dimension in fisheries, including gender equality, both through the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, and in the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy, which is due to be reviewed by December 2022.

AKTEA and LIFE have since submitted a request for a formal meeting with the Commissioner to discuss concrete ways to bring about more inclusive and equitable implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy. It was an eye-opening experience to spend two days listening to so many strong and articulate women, and learning about the myriad ways in which they are an integral part of the fishing industry. Without them, the fishing industry simply wouldn’t be. Maybe it’s time we valued them more.

Access to official photos of the event and speakers’ presentations can be found here: <http://akteaplatform.eu/akteas-women-conquer-brussels/>

The referenced study on FLAG support to women in fisheries and aquaculture is available here: [https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/cms/farnet2/library/technical-report/flag-support-women-fisheries-and-aquaculture\\_en](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/cms/farnet2/library/technical-report/flag-support-women-fisheries-and-aquaculture_en)

Keara’s full speech can be found here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HnN8ub7G7C4JkeCW90fAJAurUE8xL4aB/view?usp=sharing>

Dr Ruth Brennan is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellow (2018-2020) at Trinity College Dublin’s Centre for Environmental Humanities. She is also Sea Fisheries Advisor to Luke ‘Ming’ Flanagan MEP.

FARNET team leader, Gilles Van de Walle, illustrated just how important it is for women to be at the decision-making table and not just in management roles when it comes to Fisheries Local Action Groups. He reported on the first coherent study accounting for women in fisheries at all levels of the workforce, including unpaid work. The female workforce accounts for 27% of the seafood sector employment, broken down into 57% of processing jobs, 36% ancillary jobs (such as sales, administration, netmaking), 26% in aquaculture and 13% in fisheries.

In a stark slide, he reported a significant gender imbalance

at the FLAG decision-making table (three times more men than women), where the FLAG board takes decisions on which projects to support. He noted that there is a direct correlation between this imbalance and the percentage of projects directly supporting women in fisheries. In other words, increasing the percentage of women on FLAG decision making boards would result in more projects being funded that directly support women in fisheries. He acknowledged that the FLAGs have work to do in this regard.



27

Marja Bekendam

A telling visual was offered by Marja Bekendam, Chair of AKTEA, when she remarked that the changing colour of her hair was an indicator of how long she has been telling this story of lack of recognition for women in fisheries. “But we are moving from invisibility to visibility”, she concluded.

MEP Ana Miranda Paz led a roundtable where we heard about opportunities and constraints experienced by Spanish fisherwomen, harvesters, net makers, processors, entrepreneurs, business managers and homemakers. Perhaps the strongest statement of the day came from Sandra Amézaga, who leads Mulleres Mar Arousa, a Galician association supporting women in fisheries:

“We are experts in many fields but if we’re not in decision-making roles it’s as if we’re not there. We shouldn’t be afraid of feminism. A feminist is a women asking for equality, nothing more! We don’t want to be seen as victims. No! We are action makers!”

FARNET team leader, Gilles Van de Walle, illustrated just how important it is for women to be at the decision-making table and not just in management roles when it comes to Fisheries Local Action Groups. He reported on the first coherent study accounting for women in fisheries at all levels of the workforce, including unpaid work. The female workforce accounts for 27% of the seafood sector employment, broken down into 57% of processing jobs, 36% ancillary jobs (such as sales, administration, netmaking), 26% in aquaculture and 13% in fisheries.

In a stark slide, he reported a significant gender imbalance

at the FLAG decision-making table (three times more men than women), where the FLAG board takes decisions on which projects to support. He noted that there is a direct correlation between this imbalance and the percentage of projects directly supporting women in fisheries. In other words, increasing the percentage of women on FLAG decision making boards would result in more projects being funded that directly support women in fisheries. He acknowledged that the FLAGs have work to do in this regard.

In a video address to the meeting, European Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, Virginius Sinkeničius, echoed this recognition of the lack of representation of women in the formal governance structures of the fishing industry. He reiterated his commitment to supporting the social dimension in fisheries, including gender equality, both through the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, and in the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy, which is due to be reviewed by December 2022.

AKTEA and LIFE have since submitted a request for a formal meeting with the Commissioner to discuss concrete ways to bring about more inclusive and equitable implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy. It was an eye-opening experience to spend two days listening to so many strong and articulate women, and learning about the myriad ways in which they are an integral part of the fishing industry. Without them, the fishing industry simply wouldn’t be. Maybe it’s time we valued them more.

Access to official photos of the event and speakers’ presentations can be found here: <http://akteaplatform.eu/akteas-women-conquer-brussels/>

The referenced study on FLAG support to women in fisheries and aquaculture is available here: [https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/cms/farnet2/library/technical-report/flag-support-women-fisheries-and-aquaculture\\_en](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/cms/farnet2/library/technical-report/flag-support-women-fisheries-and-aquaculture_en)

Keara’s full speech can be found here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HnN8ub7G7C4JkeCW90fAJAurUE8xL4aB/view?usp=sharing>

Dr Ruth Brennan is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellow (2018-2020) at Trinity College Dublin’s Centre for Environmental Humanities. She is also Sea Fisheries Advisor to Luke ‘Ming’ Flanagan MEP.

FARNET team leader, Gilles Van de Walle, illustrated just how important it is for women to be at the decision-making table and not just in management roles when it comes to Fisheries Local Action Groups. He reported on the first coherent study accounting for women in fisheries at all levels of the workforce, including unpaid work. The female workforce accounts for 27% of the seafood sector employment, broken down into 57% of processing jobs, 36% ancillary jobs (such as sales, administration, netmaking), 26% in aquaculture and 13% in fisheries.

In a stark slide, he reported a significant gender imbalance



The CO-SUSTAIN project ([www.belongingtothesea.com](http://www.belongingtothesea.com)) has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 789524

**SAVE THE DATE**

**04/05 SEPT 2020**

**UL LIMERICK**  
**UL SPORT**  
IRELAND'S SPORTS CAMPUS

**OPENING TIMES**  
**FRI 10-6 SAT 10-4**

[www.theskipper.ie](http://www.theskipper.ie)

**French Shrimp Pots**

Out fished all other pot types in recent years. Source BIM Surveys.

**SORRY, UNLIKE PALE IMITATION OUR SHRIMP POTS DO NOT CATCH VELVET, SQUID OR JELLYFISH, BUT THEY DO CATCH SHRIMPS!**

SAME ORIGINAL FRENCH DESIGN SINCE 1970

EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTORS FOR ALL OVER EUROPE

ASK FOR THE REAL THING!

For further information contact:  
**BREIZON LTD, INVERIN, CO. GALWAY**  
TEL: 00353 (0) 91 572157  
Email: [info@breizon.com](mailto:info@breizon.com)

**FAFB**  
findafishingboat.com

The **EASY** way to **BUY** or **SELL** fishing boats and equipment

Commercial & Recreational boats, Marine equipment, Crew adverts Weather Forecasts...and much more

The website for all commercial fishermen

**Crab/ Velvet/ Lobster Pots for Sale**

DELIVERING TO UK AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Manufactured to customer requirements  
Liam McDermott, Carndonagh, Co Donegal. Tel: 086 8341662

**Jimmy Walsh propellers** & Marine Engineering

- Propeller Sales & Repairs
- Propeller Repitching
- Propeller Rebalancing
- Dynamic Balancing
- Stern Gear Sales
- Engine & Hull Repairs
- Steel Fabrication
- Welding Specialists

SOLAS VOLVO PENTA MERCUY SUZUKI HONDA YAMAHA

The One Stop Prop Shop  
Rosslare Harbour, Co Wexford.  
Tel: 086 3702499  
Email: [jimmy@onestoppropshop.ie](mailto:jimmy@onestoppropshop.ie)  
[www.onestoppropshop.ie](http://www.onestoppropshop.ie)

**O'HARA MARINE LTD.**

NAVAL ARCHITECTURE & MARINE SURVEYING SERVICES

Commercial Craft Services include:

- Fishing Vessel Code of Practice Surveys, under 15m
- Vessel design
- Stability Books & Inclining Experiments
- Submissions to MSO

M: +353 (0) 86 4059426  
E: [niall@oharamarine.com](mailto:niall@oharamarine.com)  
W: [www.oharamarine.com](http://www.oharamarine.com)

**Conways Solicitors**

MARITIME SOLICITORS  
DERMOT F. CONWAY B.COMM. B.C.L.

40 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN FISHERIES LAW

DETENTIONS AND ARRESTS  
INJURIES AT SEA  
MARITIME MORTGAGES  
COLLISIONS AT SEA  
TRANSFERS OF QUOTAS/VESSELS

WE PROVIDE A 365 DAY 24/7 ALL IRELAND SERVICE

CONTACT US AT  
OFFICE NUMBER: 0214901000  
Twitter @ConwaysLaw  
EMERGENCY MOBILE 24/7: 0876793478  
[WWW.MARITIME.CONWAYS.IE](http://WWW.MARITIME.CONWAYS.IE)

**CLEGGAN MARINE**

Install some peace of mind, fit a Prop Protector today!

Tel: (095) 44037 Mob: 087 7759405  
Email: [salesclegganmarine@gmail.com](mailto:salesclegganmarine@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.clegganmarine.com](http://www.clegganmarine.com)

**CLASSIFIEDS**

**BUSINESS LARGE**  
65X95mm  
€120 COLOUR €95 MONO

**BUSINESS SMALL**  
65X45mm  
€100 COLOUR €75 MONO

Contact Sharon now on:  
Tel +353 (0)74 95 48037 or  
Email: [sharon@maramedia.ie](mailto:sharon@maramedia.ie)

**SUPPORTING IRISH FISHERING COMMUNITIES**

HELP US TO HELP OTHERS. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT.

Contact  
[info@last.ie](mailto:info@last.ie) | [www.last.ie](http://www.last.ie)

**Art Kavanagh QFA**  
Marine Finance Consultant

Glenlee  
Killybegs  
Co. Donegal  
Ireland  
353-74-9732915  
353-87-6774455  
[artokavanagh@gmail.com](mailto:artokavanagh@gmail.com)

Marine & General Insurance Brokers.  
"Insuring Your World Today"

**Cavanagh Hooper Dolan**  
Insurances Ltd.

- Hull & Machinery
- Crew Cover
- Passenger Vessels
- Ferries
- Chartered Angling
- Pleasure Craft
- Workboats
- Employers & Public Liability
- Business Packages

Mobile: +353 (0)86 2504826 (Charlie)  
Direct: +353 (0)74 91 77500  
Fax: +353 (0)74 91 77200  
Email: [info@chd.ie](mailto:info@chd.ie) Web: [www.chd.ie](http://www.chd.ie)

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

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

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

**MARCH WINNER: TOMMY DIRRANE**  
CONGRATULATIONS TO TOMMY DIRRANE. GIRL STEPHANIE LANDING MACKEREL IN LONGVA, NORWAY.

**THE MONTHLY PRIZE**

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

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

**The Skipper**

**spencer carter**

and Derek Noble  
SPARES, NEW AND USED EQUIPMENT  
Over 20 years supplying Ireland's top fishermen. Trawl winches, Pot and Net haulers, Trawl blocks etc.  
Tel/Fax: 086 9474175  
Mobile: 087 2791274  
Lake Road, Waterville, Co. Kerry

**SEA ICE**

Ireland's only Ice Machine Manufacturer

Contact John White for details of a range of ice machines

**Kilkeel, Co. Down.**  
Phone/Fax: (028) 417 63802 (code 048 from ROI)  
[www.seaice.co.uk](http://www.seaice.co.uk)  
Email: [john@seaice.co.uk](mailto:john@seaice.co.uk)

**For Sale**

**GERRY SMYTH 7M 2012, 85HP PERKINS**

**12" stainless Hydroslave, Radar, Plotter, Sounder, Auto Pilot, VHF. Immaculate condition, Skerries.**

Tel: +353 (0)86 6775009

**D&D Insurances Limited**

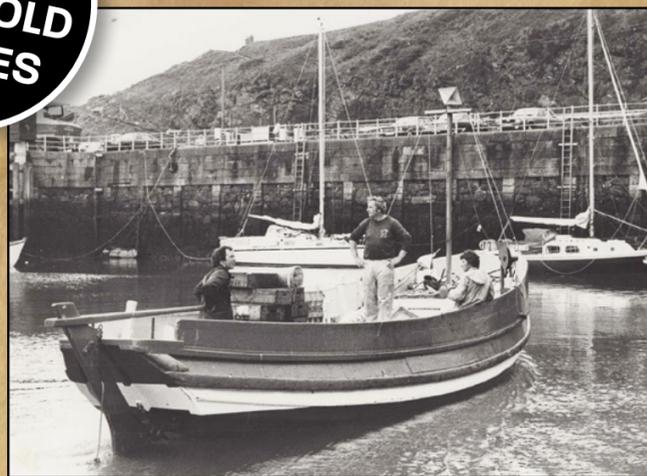
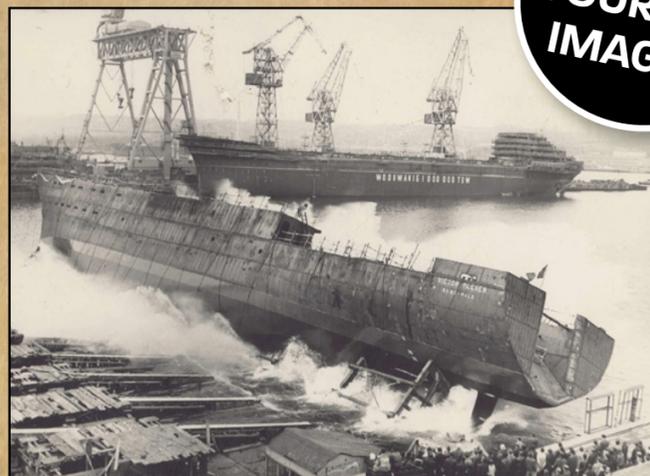
- Trawler all risk cover
- Employers Liability
- Public Liability
- Collision Liability
- Pollution, Stranding, Salvage Cleanup etc.
- Personal Accident Cover
- Total Loss Packages
- Other Marine related

**D&D Insurances Ltd**  
Block A - Unit 3, Nutgrove Office Park, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14.  
Main line: 01 20 514 05  
Fax: 01 20 513 57  
E-mail: [barry@ddinsurances.ie](mailto:barry@ddinsurances.ie)  
[mark@ddinsurances.ie](mailto:mark@ddinsurances.ie)

"D&D Insurances Ltd is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland"

# Days Gone By...

Large prints available of any picture below, €20 including P&P



SEND US YOUR OLD IMAGES

If you have copies of any images that you would like us to include in our Days Gone By page, please email them to editorial@maramedia.ie. If possible include details, names, location and date. To order any of the above images please email design@maramedia.ie

# The Archives - APRIL 1966

APRIL, 1966.

THE IRISH SKIPPER

PAGE 9



## BILL FOR LAW ACTION SENDS UP RATES

### Kerry board's responsibility

COUNTY Kerry Board of Fishery Conservators will have to dig deep into its pockets to pay the legal fees and expenses of its recent action against Rainbow Ltd. The bill came to £2,050.

ANYBODY would have thought that the Rebellion was going to start all over again when I said the other day that the first tow each morning was going to be for one hour only in future.

How is it I always get such a lazy lot for a crew. Decent chaps, mind you, but they've got the habit of sleeping through the first tow and the result is, if its a long one, that we're behind all day with the boxing.

There was mutterings going on behind the wheelhouse for fully half an hour after I made my declaration, but, as I told them, if they expect to earn the money of doctors or publicans they'll have to work for it.

Extraordinary thing. Think I told you once that they call me "Nelson" when I'm not supposed to be listening, well, it was only two days later that your man in Dublin's O'Connell Street got blown into space!

All the same, they all agree that the grub has been really terrific these last few weeks.

Heard the other day that B.L.M. is pulling out of its premises in Mount Street and moving into the top deck of one of those half-skyscrapers that have shot up in the Ballsbridge district. Haven't seen the place myself, but I'm told that its so near the R.D.S. grounds that it has already been suggested that they could easily enter The Bull for the Spring Show, although it would not be accepted for the Hereford, Shorthorn or Jersey classes, I can tell you.

In the old offices they used to lock up skippers in the cellars when they couldn't pay their way, but I hear that in the new place on the seventh floor there'll just be a plank to walk.

But there'll be one great advantage for us with the new offices. Anybody who has business up there can conveniently stay at the Intercontinental Hotel, which is only next door.

It only costs about £4 10s. for bed and breakfast there, and two small whiskeys will not cost you a penny more than what you got for a box of whittings last month.

### WANT OWN SLIP

Donegal Town Development Committee is supporting an application from 16 Donegal town boat-owners who want to build their own slipway at the pier in Donegal. The owners have applied to the County Council for permission.

A CURRACH fisherman, Thomas Walsh, of Brandon, Co. Kerry, netted two tons of mullet in a single haul last month, which he sold to Dingle Co-op.

As a result of the burden of this expenditure, the fishery rate for the coming year is to be 52s.—or 7s. more than the conservators hoped it would be. The new rate was conveyed to a meeting of the conservators in a letter from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The higher rate was set even though the Department decided arbitrarily that the figure of £2,050 for legal fees and expenses was excessive and altered the figure to £1,500 accordingly.

A resolution was proposed by Mr. T. Ryle and seconded by Sir Hugh Nugent that "the board respectfully protests against any legal costs being included in the rates computation as these proceedings were initiated by the board for the benefit of the Department and the salmon fishing industry in general."

At an earlier meeting of the board, it was stated by Mr. James Drugan, clerk, that the legal fees alone in the case totalled £1,356 0s. 2d.

Following the board's court case against Rainbow Ltd. alleging that the fish farm was impeding the free passage of fish and causing deleterious matter to enter the Cummeragh river, Rainbow Ltd. gave eight undertakings concerning the operation of the farm.

## 11 FINED AT TRALEE COURT ON OYSTER CHARGES

FINES, costs and expenses totalling £73 17s. were imposed at Tralee District Court on 11 men summoned on charges of taking, or having in possession, undersized oysters from Tralee Bay.

Daniel McKenna (Jnr.) and John Sullivan, Cromane Lower, Killorglin, and Patrick Casey, Killorglin, and John Sullivan (Sr.), Cromane Upper, Killorglin, were summoned for having in their possession oysters that were less than three inches in diameter. McKenna was fined £5; Sullivan and Casey £3 each and Sullivan (Sr.) £2.

Denis Murphy, Fenit, was fined 20s. for having in his possession undersized oysters and £2 for not

culling small oysters and throwing them back into the sea. Patrick Moriarty, Barrow, Ardfert, was fined £1 on each of two similar charges, while John Moore, East Taulight, Fenit, was fined £2 in respect of each of two similar charges.

A youth was fined £1 for failing to cull 38 undersized oysters, and Michael Hollissey, Kilsannnis, Castlegregory, and Joseph Tansley, Fenit, were each fined 10s. for aiding and abetting the youth. Vincent Kelliher, Lohercannon was fined 10s. for having in his possession a number of undersized oysters.

Costs and expenses amounting to £13-10-6d. were allowed in each case.

## NEW BYE-LAW REGULATES CO. MAYO DRIFT-NETTING

THE Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries last month made a bye-law which is operative during the period from March 21st to August 31st, 1966, prohibiting the use of drift nets for salmon fishing upstream of the common mouth of the Rivers Owenmore and Owenduff, Co. Mayo, and also creating a sanctuary in a portion of the tidal waters of both rivers wherein all net fishing for salmon is prohibited.

The by-law, which is a temporary measure to cover the present fishing season only, is necessary for the purpose of conserving salmon stocks in the rivers. The Minister intends to order a public inquiry at a later date with a view to having considered what measures may be necessary for the regulation of the fishery in future years.

## ARCTIC NORSENET LTD.

BERGEN P.O. BOX 646. NORWAY

THE EXPORT office for the six leading fishing gear manufacturers of Norway offers over 100 years of experience in net and ropemaking.

Purse seines are our speciality, and we have the whole range of fishing gear on our production programme — trawls — gill nets — ropes — lines, etc.

We should be pleased to attend to your enquiries.

BEST PRICES OFFERED FOR

ESCALLOPS WINKLES  
LOBSTERS PRAWN TAILS

## BAXTER & SON LTD.

Telephone: Mansion House 9055. Mincing Lane 9144.

15-16 Billingsgate LONDON, E.C. 3.

## Listers for lobsters!

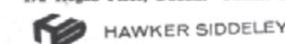


Some of the Lobster Boats powered by Lister two-cylinder air-cooled diesel engines—picked for performance, proved by experience. Details of these and other engines from 3 h.p. to 1,900 h.p. from:—

## LISTER BLACKSTONE MARINE LTD.

17a Hogan Place, Dublin. Phone: 66780.

Head Office and Works: Dursley, Gloucestershire.

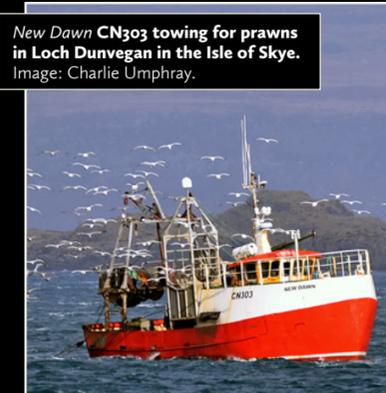


HAWKER SIDDELEY

HAWKER SIDDELEY GROUP SUPPLIES MECHANICAL, ELECTRICAL AND AEROSPACE CAPITAL EQUIPMENT WITH WORLD-WIDE SALES AND SERVICE.

### SALES AND SERVICE:

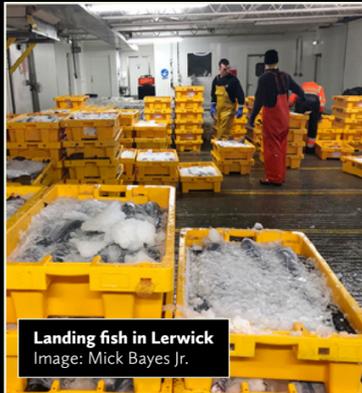
- Isaac Beckett Ltd., Ballina.
- Bulloch Marine Traders, Dalkey.
- Cork Iron & Hardware Ltd.
- Martin Mylotte, Carna.
- S. McCormick Equipment Ltd., Belfast.



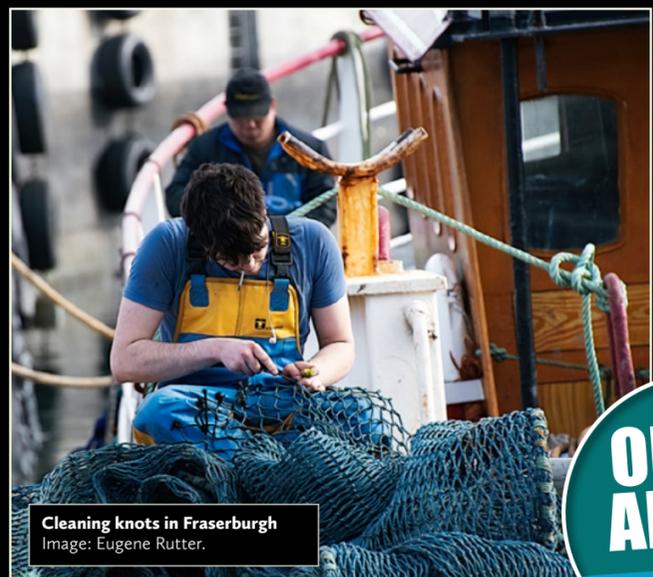
New Dawn CN303 towing for prawns in Loch Dunvegan in the Isle of Skye. Image: Charlie Umphray.



Still fishing. Eternal Dawn and the Green Isle landing into Ardglass on March 21st. Image: Christopher Feenan.



Landing fish in Lerwick. Image: Mick Bayes Jr.



Cleaning knots in Fraserburgh. Image: Eugene Rutter.



Stone Town, Zanzibar. Image by Roisin Bonner

**OUT & ABOUT**

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



Antares LK 419 in Lerwick. Image Mick Bayes Jr.



Neptune SO715 and Paula D165 in Killybegs. Image: Aodan Griffin



Atlantic Fisher skipper Johnny O'Connor and crewman Marek Marzeta with a rare Golden Haddock. Image courtesy of Kevin Flannery.



Two stowaways hitching a lift from Castle Island with Schull fisherman Denis Griffin last month.



Guiding Star II, and Ardent sheltering in Stornoway in January. Images: AJ McConnachie

Marine & General Insurance Brokers. "Insuring Your World Today"

**Cavanagh Hooper Dolan Insurances Ltd.**

Tel:+353 (0)74 9177500 Fax:+353 (0)74 9177200 Email: info@chd.ie Web: www.chd.ie

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

**Cavanagh Hooper Dolan Insurances Ltd.**

Proud sponsors of The Skipper crossword

Send entries before 17th APRIL 2020 to: Crossword Competition, The Skipper, Annagry, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. (Photocopies not accepted).

You can now take a picture of your completed crossword and email your entry along with relevant details to [design@maramedia.ie](mailto:design@maramedia.ie).

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TEL: (REQUIRED): \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

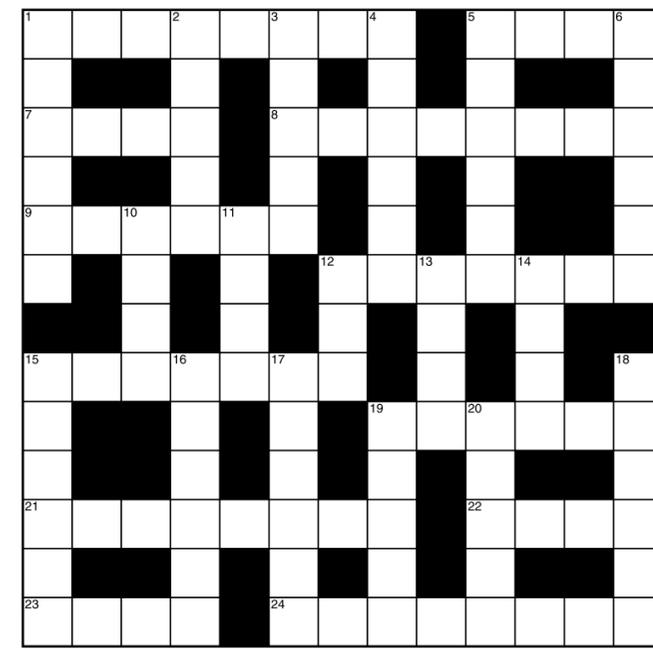
**IMPORTANT PLEASE INDICATE JACKET SIZE:** SMALL ■ MEDIUM ■ LARGE ■ XL ■ 2XL ■

**ACROSS**

- Supplied funds for
- Leg
- Contented
- Arriving at
- Poked fun at
- Subsided
- Harbour town
- Invent
- Swinging couches
- Cosmetics gel, aloe ...
- Require
- Libra or Scorpio (4,4)

**DOWN**

- Punch-ups
- Assistants
- Preserved (meat)
- Possible
- Pakistani city
- Secretly recorded
- Greenish-blue
- Industry or trade exhibition
- Large rodent
- Sear
- Facts
- Drain off
- Curled artificially
- Responds to stimulus
- Reacquire
- Republic, ... Rica
- Singer/actor, ... Presley



\*Failure to select jacket size will result in void entry

**MARCH SOLUTION**

M	E	M	O	R	Y	S	D	I	A	Z	
E	Z	I	D	A	H	O	L				
L	U	D	O	E	R	D	E	B	T		
O	N	L	U	C	I	D	E				
D	E	P	E	N	D	A	E	A	R	L	
I	S	R	T								
C	A	N	A	L	S	M	A	Y	D	A	Y
V	L	E									
C	O	W	L	T	A	C	C	O	R	D	
C	U	R	B	A	N	I	D				
R	A	N	D	A	K	G	O	B	I		
D	E	X	C	E	L	A	S				
B	O	Y	S	K	E	N	R	I	C	H	

**MARCH WINNERS**

1ST - Mullion Softshell Jacket  
 RUARY RUDD,  
 WATERVILLE, KERRY

2ND - Skipper Bearie  
 SENAN GUILDEA,  
 ARAN ISLES, GALWAY

**MULLION SOFTSHELL JACKET**  
*as worn by Tony Brown, Mullion Technician*

**1st prize in The Skipper Crossword**  
 visit: [www.mullion.com](http://www.mullion.com)

**MULLION** **SICEN**

**NOW ONLINE**  
 €25 - 12 Issues / 1yr  
 €3 - single issue

**THE SKIPPER**  
**STORM WARNING**  
 Industry products stormy days ahead for Irish and UK fisheries.

**HARD COPY**  
 1 Yr / 12 Issues  
 IRL-EUR €45-€55  
 UK £45

Join today at [www.theskipper.ie/subscribe/](http://www.theskipper.ie/subscribe/)

**FREE BUY & SELL LISTINGS**

- Vessels
- Equipment
- Wanted
- Tonnage
- Gear
- Miscellaneous

Contact Sharon now on:  
 Tel +353 (0)74 95 48037 or  
 Email: [sharon@maramedia.ie](mailto:sharon@maramedia.ie)

**A**s boats landed on the morning of Saturday the 21st of March, Castletownbere fishermen handed out hundreds of bags of fresh fish for free to locals in an effort to highlight the market difficulties they are currently facing in the context of the coronavirus crisis.

Staff and fishermen filleted and bagged some 40 boxes of whitefish from a number of Irish South and West Fish Producers' Organisation (IS&WFPO) boats at Castletownbere Fishermen's Co-Op as the last boats landed, after being asked to tie up earlier that week due to a lack of export markets.

In Castletownbere, the fish was given away outside Murphy's SuperValu from a makeshift outdoor facility with fish counter—provided by Murphy's—so that hygiene and social distancing could be maintained, in line with current guidelines. Fish was also given out in Bantry.

Despite the challenges underlying the give away, there were smiles as the community came together, with locals availing of the free fish and fishermen highlighting their current plight in the wake of the collapse of seafood markets in Italy, Spain and France over the past month due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Falling demand precipitated by measures to curtail the spread of



Images by Niall Duffy

## Castletownbere fishermen hand out fresh fish to locals in West Cork

the virus, has seen boats tied up in ports right around Europe, and led to fishermen in Castletownbere being

advised to also tie up and stop fishing.

Faced with little or no export avenues for their fish, all 64 boats managed by the Castletownbere Fishermen's Co-Operative were asked to come back into port and tie up initially for a week beginning the weekend of March 20th, with the last of those boats landing early on the morning of March 21st.

In light of the current market situation, Patrick Murphy, CEO of the Irish South and West Fish Producers' Organisation has called on the Government to promote fresh Irish fish to the Irish public as one strategy via which the Irish fleet might weather this crisis. As part of that, he says supermarkets will need to stock and sell that fish.

Ag Méadú Eolas Muirí  
Ag Soláthair Seirbhísí Mara

Building Ocean Knowledge  
Delivering Ocean Services

[marine.ie](http://marine.ie)

Foras na Mara  
Marine Institute



Members of the Irish South and West gave out free fish in Castletownbere last month to highlight the extreme market difficulties they are facing.

**BE SAFE AT SEA - WEAR YOUR PFD**

**SAVE THE DATE**

IRISH SKIPPER EXPO

SEPT 2020  
FRIDAY/SATURDAY  
04-05  
@ UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK

YOUR INDUSTRY  
YOUR SHOW

[WWW.THESKIPPER.IE](http://WWW.THESKIPPER.IE)

ISSN 2009-3489



9 772009 348025