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Why Did The Irish Fishing Industry Have To Take On The Russians?

“Because the Government
has little regard for
fishing” - See pages 4 & 5

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Ports And Harbours Improvements Scheme Welcomed – With Some Reservations

Report: Tom MacSweeney, Deputy Editor

There has been a general welcome for the €35m scheme to rejuvenate public piers and harbours around the coast because much of their structure in areas other than major port and harbours is not in good shape.

There have been complaints about poor facilities and demands for improvements and repairs in many of the peripheral areas for years, but not a lot has been done for these piers and harbours, with local authorities claiming that there was no money for repair work.

Marine Minister Charlie McConalogue, announcing the scheme, described it as “an unprecedented opportunity to invest in our publicly owned piers and harbours”.

“This record funding for our coastal communities will shape the future of our coastal communities. Brexit has and will continue to affect our seafood sector in a unique way compared to other industries. I am delighted to be able to offer this level of investment so that we can deliver safe, accessible, lasting infrastructure and support economic diversification right around our coastline.”

The scheme is to be focused on ‘shovel-ready’ projects to give immediate construction stimulus to the coastal communities affected by the TCA and is targeted to attract such projects of up to €1m budget during 2022 and 2023. According to the Department of the Marine it also offers the possibility of funding larger projects where there is particular exposure to Brexit due to proximity to UK waters and loss of fishing opportunities.

Minister McConalogue encouraged local authorities to make full use of this unique opportunity. “So much of the outcome of Brexit has been bad news for local coastal communities. Now we have this opportunity to support economic growth and mitigate the negative impacts for these communities. Ireland has fought hard for a fair BAR allocation; now we must put it to good use.” He said he wanted to see the funding spent as quickly as possible.

Funding will be drawn down from Ireland’s €1bn share of the Brexit Adjustment

Reserve Fund, but fishing organisations such as the South and East Fish Producers, have pointed out that, while it is welcome, it still leaves the Irish fishing industry very badly hit by losses much more than the total value of the scheme, because of the impact of Brexit and the failure of the Government to achieve the promised “equal burden sharing” for Brexit losses to be applied to other EU nations.

The Department will administer the Scheme and work closely with coastal local authorities to ensure that eligible projects receive funding.

Local Councils are to oversee the projects with the Government hoping that they will provide a stimulus to coastal communities. Projects approved under the scheme can be allocated up to €1m each, with potential for further funding in cases where there is a particular exposure to Brexit. The funding will be delivered over a two-year period. There does not appear to be any ‘ring-fencing’ to limit the projects to exclusively benefit fishing.

The Seafood Task force, established by Minister McConalogue following Brexit, recommended that €80m be spent on Ireland’s publicly owned marine infrastructure over the next five years.

The Brexit Adjustment Reserve (BAR) is a special one-off emergency instrument. The objective of the BAR is to provide support to counter the adverse economic, social, territorial and, where appropriate, environmental consequences of the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union in Member States, including their regions and local communities, and sectors, in particular in those that are most adversely affected by the withdrawal, and to mitigate the related negative impact on the economic, social and territorial cohesion. Ireland is the biggest beneficiary of the Brexit Adjustment Reserve and the first Member State to receive its pre-financing.



the fine Art of Marine Finance

by Art Kavanagh

This Working from Home Syndrome???

I know that we must all try to keep each other safe and minimize gatherings. I did predict in early 2020 that Covid had the capacity to create the most ideal of hiding places for incompetence and that if allowed to exist for long enough it would eventually be blamed for DANDRUFF.

The whole thing is becoming a joke lads. There are certain people who cannot work from home (like Fishermen) but whose ability to function is being controlled by those who CAN. Not Fair Lads!!!!

I will say no more about it apart from asking those who have been working from home to look in the mirror and examine their conscience to confirm that they have given the service the public deserves and for which I believe most of those working from Home were on full salary. If less than 100 % being delivered- how can 100 % of Salary be deserved?

In the past few weeks, I have had some health problems which have slowed me down and it is surprising how many people fully aware of my problem continue to expect me to be at full fitness. It’s great to be trusted Lads But

On my way to the Doctor yesterday morning Liam Clancy’s recording of the Shoals of Herring by Ewan MacColl played on the Ronan Collins Show.

Some of the lines as I quote below represented the reality of Fishing Life not too many years ago and demonstrated the conditions in which those Fishermen who effectively built the Industry to where it is now.

I think that our friends in the WRC would be struggling with some of the concepts in this song ?

The lines I feature are not in sequence but they do illustrate the brand of men that built our Industry. I would love to see circumstances changed to entice more young Irish People into the Industry which is a noble calling and which has the capacity to

contribute so much to the state if the State allows it to do that.

There are far too many people with no skin in the Game interfering in an industry they know so little about.

Stay safe lads

“Oh the Work was hard and the hours were long

And the treatment, sure it took some bearing.

And I used to sleep standing on my feet

And I’d dream about the shoals of Herring

Well I earned my keep and I paid my way

And I earned the Gear that I am wearing

Sailed a Million Miles, caught two million Fishes

We was following the Shoals of Herring”

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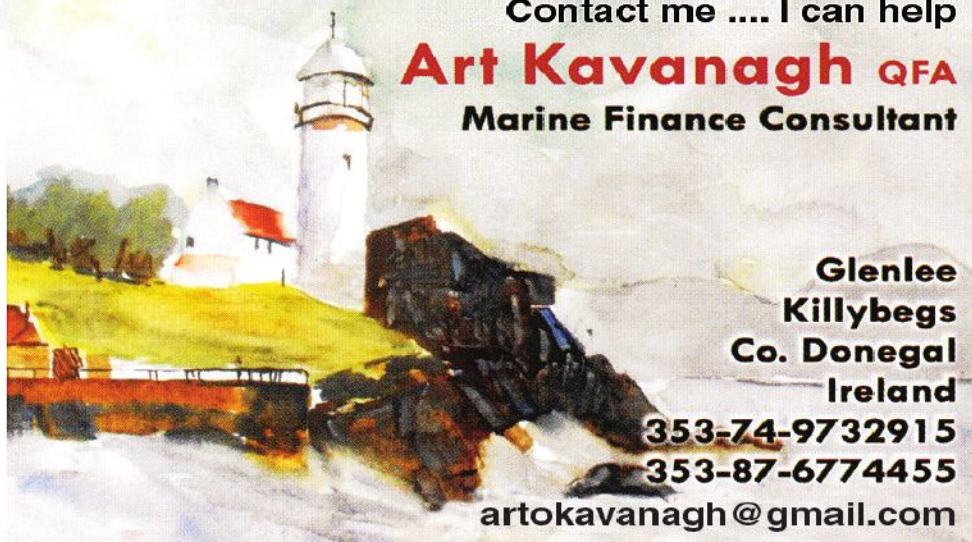
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BIM New Fishermen Scheme

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Inshore Sector React to Minister's Announcement on Inshore Brexit Adjustment Scheme



NIFA

National Inshore
Fishermen's Association

Given that the past two years have probably been the most challenging in recent memory for the Inshore Sector and bearing in mind the numerous and serious challenges that lie ahead, any meaningful support for the sector can only be welcomed.

Provisional feedback from the majority of our members suggests the announcement by Marine Minister Charlie McConalogue has been broadly welcomed by them. We are, however, waiting for the full detail of the scheme to be made available to make a more detailed analysis.

Some serious and valid concerns have been raised regarding the eligibility reference period of January to June, something we believe is not in line with the Seafood Sector Taskforce Recommendation.

For many genuine operators, inshore fishing takes a seasonal pattern, particularly for those with smaller boats involved in the shrimp fishery, who with little opportunity to avail of in the first six months of the year, would traditionally make the vast majority

of their income in the latter half of the year.

These operators have faced the same challenges as their counterparts who would make the majority of their income in the first six months of the year. They deserve and need the same level of support.

While we welcome the provision of an appeals mechanism, on principle alone we believe the reference period should be inclusive of the full twelve months of 2021.

Again while awaiting full details, concerns have also been raised regarding the online element of both the application process and the training modules.

A lack of digital proficiency within the Inshore sector was identified in the Inshore Fisheries Strategy as a key issue and since its publication no actions have been taken to address this issue.

Acknowledging the world is becoming digitalised we stand ready to assist members in any way possible in order to prevent this from becoming a barrier to them getting the badly needed support they deserve.

IIMRO Says Line Caught Mackerel Fishery Allocation “Unacceptable”

There have been on-going discussions about the early closure of the line caught mackerel fishery in 2021 at the Quota Management Advisory Committee (QMAC).

IIMRO (Irish Islands Marine Resource Organisation Producer Organisation) which has called for a full public consultation on how the mackerel fishery resource is allocated in Ireland. It says this is needed “to ensure that the publicly-owned quota is not monopolised by a small number of large fishing companies.”

It says that the “the current allocation of 400 tonnes from a total of 55,000 tonnes to the majority of the fleet, for a highly selective and sustainable line fishery, is unacceptable and flies in the face of common sense as well as policy at national and EU level.”

Read more in the IIMRO column on page 13



Photo courtesy Kieran O'Connell

BIM Opens Scheme to Help Ireland's Inshore Sector Adjust to Post-Brexit Trading Conditions

A scheme to support Ireland's inshore fishing sector to adjust their business to the post-Brexit market opened for applications on Wednesday, January 26th following the announcement by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Charlie McConalogue T.D. on January 14th.

Ireland's inshore fishing sector is made up of some 1,800 vessels, that catch a range of fish and shellfish species while typically operating in waters close to the coast. The sector had exported up to 90% of its catch, however, the advent of Brexit and associated new fishing agreements, have had an impact on export trends, as accessing or transiting through the UK market is now more complex.

The new scheme is based on recommendations contained within the final report of the Seafood Taskforce that was established by Minister McConalogue. The new scheme is being administered by Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) as recommended in the report. Under the scheme, depending on the size of their boat, grant aid of between €2,700 and €4,000 is available for fishing vessel owners on completion of a tailored training programme.

Jim O'Toole, CEO BIM, said there were specific challenges facing the inshore sector in the post-Brexit landscape and the support on offer would help them adapt their business model to address these new working conditions: “This short-term scheme is designed to help the sector navigate the difficult trading conditions facing them as a result of Brexit. This scheme has been designed to support the Inshore sector to ad-

just to the new market realities post-Brexit and will provide real and practical benefit to the sector through a range of easily accessible courses that will help them strengthen their skills and help them find new opportunities for their businesses”.

Under the new scheme, fishing vessel owners with boats up to 8 metres in length can apply for grant aid up to €2,700, while those with fishing vessels up to 18 metres in length can apply for grant aid of up to €4,000. For vessel owners to be eligible, they must show that they were actively fishing between January and June 2021.

To receive their grant, applicants must complete at least one of five online training courses that are designed to provide the sector with the skills to adapt to the new market realities post-Brexit. These courses are designed to enable vessel owners to explore finding new market opportunities for their catch, adjust their business plans to account for the new market conditions, use digital technology to reach customers directly, help maximise the value of their catch and show how they can access alternative markets.

The scheme is open for applications until March 31, 2022. For more information or to apply, visit <https://bim.ie/fisheries/funding/brexitinshoresupportscheme/>



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Why Did The Irish Fishing Industry Have To Take On The Russians?

“Because the Government has little regard for fishing”

By Mark McCarthy and Tom MacSweeney

On January 14, 2009, the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Russian Federation for the export of fish and fishery products from Ireland.

On Monday, January 24, 2022, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence, Simon Coveney, told the Russian Ambassador to Ireland that its Navy was not welcome in Irish waters.

On Thursday, January 27, the Chief Executives of two Irish fishing organisations met the Russian Ambassador in his Dublin Embassy to discuss why the Russians were not welcome.

An interesting chronology involving fish and a world superpower.

So why did Irish fishermen meet directly with the Ambassador when the Irish Government did not?

The Russian Federation, led and dominated by former KGB Intelligence Officer and now President of Russia, Vladimir Putin, decided to show the European Union and NATO, in its confrontation over Ukraine, that Europe has a vulnerable back door.

Ireland became a useful ‘tool’ for the Russians in their high-stake manoeuvrings with the world’s biggest powers, the United States, the UK, the EU and NATO. They chose waters within the Irish Exclusive Economic Zone to show they had identified a Western flank vulnerability of Europe.

Years of neglect of the Naval Service, another example of the disregard of the Irish Government for the marine sphere, has left Ireland without the level of maritime

defence capacity which it should have. (For more on this see the MARINE TIMES INTERVIEW in this edition on page 15). But none of this was what took the fishing organisations to meet the Russian Ambassador. They met him to express concern about the impact of the naval exercises in Irish EEZ waters about 130/135 nautical miles off the South/West Coast. These had become a major public issue in the national media – television, radio and newspapers during the last week of January after the Russian advice to Ireland that the exercises, involving live firing of rockets and gunnery, would take place. Under the United Nations Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) the Russian Navy is entitled to be in these waters. It is the first time that such an exercise was set for such a location.

Irish Government Did Not Mention Fishing

There was nothing the Irish Government could do to prevent it, so Minister Coveney said. He had told the Ambassador the Russian Navy was not welcome in Irish waters. Tanaiste and Coveney’s boss, Leo Varadkar, said the same. Both men made no reference to the significant issue which had been raised by the fishing industry and became the dominant public topic during the last week of January – the impact on marine life and the fishing industry. Not a single word of concern was issued by either men. Neither did a single word emanate about fishing emanate from either Taoiseach Micheál Martin or Marine Minister Charlie McConalogue.

Does that not show the lack of concern at the highest level of the Irish Government for the fishing industry?

Report continues on page 5



Castletownbere - Photo © Anne Marie Cronin Photography

“This Should Have Been A Matter For Government”

Meeting the Russian Ambassador, Yuri Filatov, about the Naval Exercises off the South/West Coast



A personal view and analysis from Brendan Byrne, Chief Executive of the Irish Fish Processors and Exporters' Association



IFPEA

On Thursday, January 27, I along with Patrick Murphy from the South and West met with the Russian Ambassador to Ireland, the meeting was very cordial and constructive from the outset. But, one question needs to be asked by all of us is - why did industry have to take the initiative or lead the charge as opposed to the various Ministers that have responsibilities in such areas?

The answer is the same as time and time before - it's a lesser interest successive Governments have in Irish fishing than they have for other sectors of the economy. We are the poor relative of sectors in the general scheme of things.

The concerns of industry were well-founded and due to the lack of information and sharing even from our own Government, clarity had to be sought. The initiative to hold the meeting was the Ambassador's own and industry gladly took up the offer.

My view of the meeting is simple - the Ambassador certainly had a good knowledge of the industry and I genuinely felt he took on board the views of industry. That being said, it is of course a matter for authorities in Russia to ultimately decide how this Naval drill is to be managed but I would be hopeful on the basis of scale of activity, the degree of scope available to hold these exercises then both the fishing industry and these Naval drills can peacefully co-exist for the 5 days they take place.

We also need to be honest here – Naval drills take place regularly within the Irish EEZ. This is not the first and it will not be the last. Equally it is the reality - what unknown naval activity is there out there that we simply just do not know about?

Perhaps, the real story here is how this news cycle has completely transformed the general public's understanding of the Irish Fishing industry. For the first time it has brought the fishing industry to be a mainstream news item. It has raised the profile of both the catching sector and processing sector more than ever before. And, I have to add, we have the Russians to thank for that!

The fishing industry, through their highlighting of the issues surrounding the use of excessive sonar, discharge of missiles or other such explosives in an extremely eco sensitive areas – proves once again it is the fishing communities that are the ultimate custodians of the seas and oceans. The concerns regarding whales, dolphins and the spawning grounds - it was industry that brought these issues to the fore. Regardless of what the Russians decide - and that is beyond our control anyway -we have proven we are responsible in our approach to conservation.

I do appreciate that fishing matters are complex and that is visible again, with some journalists confusing themselves on the vastness of the seas that surround us and the differences between specific areas of the ocean such as the two Porcupines etc, but that being said it is a positive that so many took an interest. We cannot get overly animated if people dealing with something on a first-time basis mix it up – its human, its allowed.

So, while the meeting with the Ambassador was a different dimension to ordinary routine work, it is the reality making fishing more relevant and central stage to the lives of the Irish people that is the ultimate challenge and that involves all of us in the times ahead.

“Russian decision to withdraw from Irish EEZ is correct – now, other states need to respect Irish waters and stop naval exercises” - see page 8

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Brendan Byrne, Chief Executive of the Irish Fish Processors and Exporters' Association who met the Russian Ambassador, Yuri Filatov writes his personal view and analysis of the meeting for this edition of the MARINE TIMES. **You can read his article on page 4 - "This should have been a matter for Government"**

"Why did industry have to take the initiative?" he asks. "The answer is the same as time and time before - it's a lesser interest successive Governments have in Irish fishing than they have for other sectors of the economy."

He and Patrick Murphy, CEO of the Irish South and West Fish Producers' Organisation, both of whom met the Russian Ambassador, said after the meeting that the Ambassador "had a good knowledge and understanding of the Irish fishing industry".

More awareness and understanding than Irish Government Ministers?

The MARINE TIMES is the only publication dedicated exclusively to Irish fishing interests. It seems that the Russian naval exercises raised awareness of the fishing industry to a high level of national public and media interest, highlighting the failure of government to recognise it as an essential and vital economic resource and food source for the nation.

The Russian exercises were certain to attract surveillance from the US, UK and NATO with submarines and other naval and military resources observing in the Irish EEZ.

Putin, it can be said, has raised awareness of Ireland's maritime sphere!

Damage to Marine Life and Environment

The damage which the Russian naval exercises could do to marine life and the marine environment is considerable, particularly the noise levels and impacts from gunnery and rocket-fire.

Last year an international study examined 10,000 scientific papers on the subject of marine sound and its impact on wildlife, showing evidence that "anthropogenic" (human-caused) noise negatively impacts marine life and underwater ecosystems.

"Sound levels in the oceans are rising and can be carried long distances underwater. Sound is the sensory cue that travels farthest through the ocean and is used by marine animals, from invertebrates to whales, to interpret and explore the marine environment around them. Marine animals depend on their hearing to navigate, communicate and catch prey. This makes the ocean soundscape one of the most important and under-appreciated, aspects of the marine sphere," the report said.

National Media Journalists do not understand the Sea

National media journalists showed their lack of knowledge and understanding of the sea in their reportage of the issues. They mixed-up "traditional fishing areas" and do not refer to distances at sea correctly. These are properly measured in nautical miles, not

land-based kilometres. A nautical mile is a unit of length used in marine navigation. The international nautical mile is defined as 1,852 metres - 6076 ft. The unit of speed at sea is the knot, one nautical mile per hour. Not kilometres either! The distance from the Irish shoreline to the Russian exercise area has been reported at between 240/250 kilometres, which would be 130/135 nautical miles, equating to about 170 good old road Irish miles. Not too far off the distance from Cork to Dublin!

And then on Saturday night, January 29th, Defence and Foreign Affairs Minister Simon Coveney announced that he had received a letter confirming the Russian naval exercises would be relocated outside of Ireland's Exclusive Economic Zone.

Ambassador Yury Filatov said in a statement: "In response to the requests from the Irish government as well as from the Irish South and West Fish Producer's Organisation, the Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation Sergey Shoigu has made a decision, as a gesture of goodwill, to relocate the exercises by the Russian Navy, planned for February 3-8, outside the Irish exclusive economic zone (EEZ), with the aim not to hinder fishing activities by the Irish vessels in the traditional fishing areas."

Minister Coveney said that he made the case to Russia that Ireland would

"appreciate" if their planned military exercises took place away from the EEZ.

"We've had a lot of contact with the Russian embassy this week and we decided to write to the Russian Ministry of Defence to ask them to consider moving or delaying the military exercises out of Ireland's Exclusive Economic Zone."

"Clearly the intention to have military exercises there was causing unnecessary tension. Fishermen quite rightly highlighted that this is a very active fishing ground so I made the case clearly and strongly to them that Ireland would appreciate if these military exercises moved away from Ireland's Exclusive Economic Zone and would be delayed if possible.

"We don't know where they plan to have military exercises, but it certainly won't be in international waters that Ireland has responsibility for."

It was the only reference the Government made to fishing but overall it seems Irish fishermen showed Government how to act decisively.

Now there is a lesson for Government to learn..... and the fishing industry in how to apply pressure.

Naval Exercises Disrupting Donegal Fishermen is a Common Nuisance – Where's the National Outcry?

An interesting point has been made by Seán Ó Briain, a fisherman from Inis Bó Finne who has said that he and his crew regularly encounter naval vessels training out from the coast, within 16 nautical miles of Tory island.



Speaking to the current affairs programme Adhmhaidin on RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta, he said they regularly receive warnings from military craft, submarines and ships to leave an area and that these activities have a big impact on the work of fishermen there and it makes their work very difficult and potentially dangerous. British and American navy ships train around the area of the Stanton Bank, frequented by local fisherman. "Even last Monday morning as we were starting to lift the crab pots [not far] from Tory island, there were submarines just to the west of us."

"A lot of the time, you have to leave the area. They give you a warning to stay ten miles away from where they're training.

"There's a big cost involved with getting fuel and bait on board and getting out that

far, to just turn back and you can't do your day's work and you return to the pier with nothing to show for it.

"The politicians are doing nothing about it. We think we should be compensated, it's wasting our time and preventing us from doing our work."

Mr Ó Briain expressed his surprise at the amount of coverage of the planned Russian military exercise, 135nm out from the southwest coast.

"We get no information, it's not in the papers or on the news or anything, we just get the warnings from the boats themselves.

"That's okay for trawlers who have all their gear on board and are heading to another area, but our pots are set there and we can't get out to them. It really impacts our work."

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NATURAL JUSTICE IS NOT APPLIED BY THE EU TO IRELAND'S FISHING INDUSTRY

In last month's edition this paper called on the European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, Virginijus Sinkevicius, who has direct responsibility for fisheries within the Commission, to be fair to Ireland.

That there has not been any indication from him to us that he will do so, does not come as a surprise.

It does add to our belief that the European is not behaving fairly to the Irish fishing industry. There is no indication that it will require other EU countries, profiting the most from their catches in Irish waters, to accept the concept of equal 'burden sharing' following Brexit. That they would be required to do so is, it would appear, an empty promise. Irish waters and the access they have been provided with by EU policy, are too profitable for those countries to accept any diminution of their profits.

And the EU continues to arrogantly refuse to disclose to the Irish fishing industry the controversial control audit report which allegedly makes a range of damaging allegations against the sector.

These are adequate reasons to justify criticism of EU policy towards the Irish fishing industry.

Our scepticism about EU fairness towards Ireland is, we believe, correct.

This paper is conscious that public optimism and trust in the EU reached its highest level since 2009 during

the Covid pandemic, as recorded by the Eurobarometer survey last year. That has been attributed, largely, to the €750 billion EU Covid recovery fund and vaccine purchase arrangements.

That popularity level is not reflected within the fishing industry which continues to suffer from EU policies that prohibit Irish fishermen from equal catch rights and quotas that other EU nations have been allocated within Irish waters. Those countries get more favourable treatment from the EU.

That is unfair.

Increasingly, it appears to us, to be a hostile attitude towards the Irish fishing industry. That must be dealt with and be corrected.

This is a test of the EU Commission's avowed obligation of fairness in dealings with all Member States. The issues which this paper has outlined breach that fairness obligation.

This treatment of the Irish fishing industry, the most heavily penalised by and which has suffered and is suffering the most from the outcome of Brexit, must be corrected as must be the restriction of Irish fishing to the rights to fish in Irish waters.

As we said in our January editorial, we repeat now - Natural justice requires absence of bias, but that does not appear to be applied by the EU towards Ireland's fishing industry.

Christy Martyn – R.I.P

We were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of a well-known Galway fisherman Christy Martyn, in October 2021, as he approached his 84th birthday. His love of the sea began at a young age, when he joined the Sea Scouts. Christy was born into the well-known Claddagh fishing village in Galway.



At a young age he joined the Royal Navy and trained as a Marine Engineer, on Submarines.

Submarines in the early sixties were Diesel/ Electric boats, pre nuclear subs, and living conditions on board were interesting to say the least. Yet they worked as a very tight family, and he travelled the world, even under the ice many a time.

Leaving the Navy in the 1970's, Christy married a lovely Galway lass Helen, and they had one daughter Annette.

Christy purchased his first boat in the UK, a 36-foot half decker "MV Irish Lady" and fished her for many years out of Galway.

His Marine Engineers Ticket meant he was always in demand for work, spending many years on the MV. Galway Bay Passenger Ferry, run by C.I.E. between Galway and the Aran Islands.

Christy also worked on Tug boats for Wheelan's on the River Shannon, the Inishboffin ferry to Cleggan, and Island Ferries to the Aran Islands.

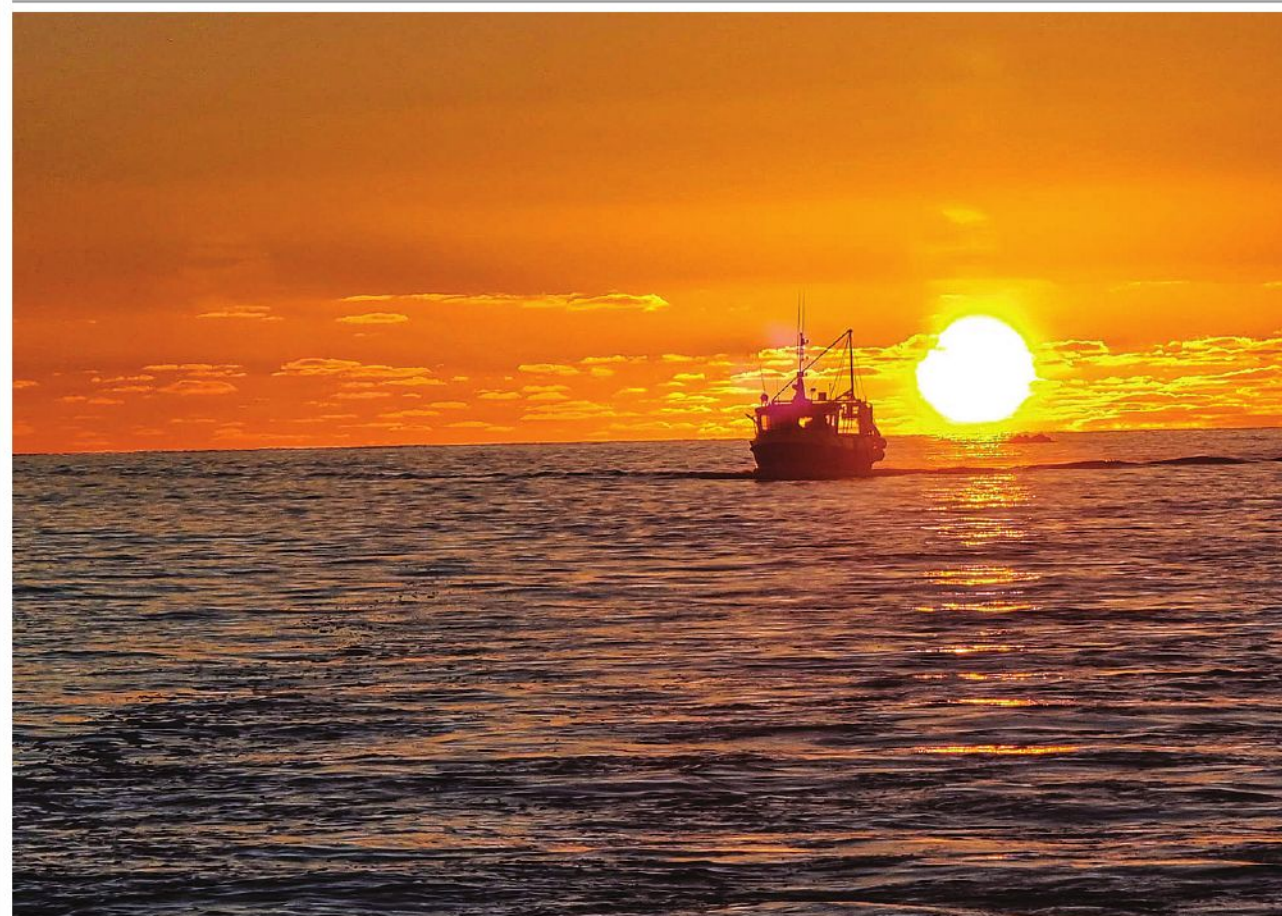
His half decker the "Irish Lady" apart from fishing, saw all sorts of other work, out of Galway Harbour under the guidance of his close friend Captain Frank Sheridan. (Galway Harbour Master, R.I.P). The variety of Christy's work extended from crew changes of Spanish Vessels, when half the crew had to be Irish to fish our waters back in the day. To film work including the Sail Training vessel "The Asgard 11", and relief pilot boat for Galway harbour.

Christy's proudest moment was meeting Commander Bill King (R.I.P.) who lived in Oranmore Castle in Galway, he passed away at the ripe old age of 102. Bill was one of a few to survive World War 2 as a Submarine Commander. Christy sailed on one of Bill submarines, "The Waluraus" in much later years.

At Christy's funeral mass, his close friend Ted Sweeney gave a moving tribute to his fellow Marine Engineer. Ted hails from the famous Sweeney family in Blacksod. His Mum was famous for making the weather call for the D-Day landings all those years ago. Ted's family are responsible for Blacksod Light House, and the re-fuelling station for the Coast Guard. Ted himself like Christy worked as a marine engineer with many companies including, Irish Shipping, Irish Lights, Celtic Explorer (Marine Institute) and Island Ferries.

Christy, Fair winds and good passage to you.

Go ndéanamh Dia trocaire ar do anam.



MDAC pictured coming in to Dingle - Photo courtesy Adam Flannery

A massive thank you to all who sent photos - we try our best to publish as many as possible in each issue. If you have a photo that you would like to see in the Marine Times please do email them on to us at editor@marinetimes.ie or you can WhatsApp us on 087-7989582

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Aquaculture and Fishing Not Included in Maritime Area Planning Bill

The Irish Farmers' Association aquaculture section has pointed out that the Maritime Area Planning Bill passed by the Oireachtas in mid-December does not include aquaculture and fisheries.

"This will also mean both sectors will not have a place in the establishment of the new regulatory body, Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA)," the IFA says.

"How much more time will it take before aquaculture is properly considered when it comes to development management of the marine space?" IFA's Aquaculture Executive, Teresa Morrissey, has asked.

Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD, said his Department was "leading an extensive marine management reform programme, the likes of which the State has never seen. The Maritime Area Planning Bill represents a giant leap forward towards meeting our ambitious climate action goals and targets and is a result of many of years of work in my Department to modernise our marine planning system. It will also play a significant role in the Government's response to climate change and to reaching the renewable energy goals set forth in the Climate Action Plan."

Up to the passing of the new Bill there were 159 Marine SACs - Special Areas of Conservation and 89 marine SPAs - Special Protected Areas - in Irish waters.

These were designated under the EU's Habitats and Birds Directive and had been collectively referred to as Natura 2000 sites.

The Maritime Area Planning Bill 2021 establishes in law a new planning regime for the maritime area and will be a key

enabler of decarbonisation of Ireland's energy sources and the development of offshore energy, according to a statement issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, issued after the Bill was passed. "It will replace existing State and development consent regimes and streamline arrangements on the basis of a single consent principle, i.e. one State consent (Maritime Area Consent) to enable occupation of the Maritime Area and one development consent (planning permission), with a single environmental assessment.

"The Bill is also a key component of the National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF), Ireland's first national framework for managing marine activities, launched earlier this summer. The framework, which will apply to a maritime area of approximately 495,000km², outlines a vision for how we want to use, protect and enjoy our seas in the years up to 2040. The Framework is a parallel document to the National Planning Framework, which guides terrestrial planning and development."

The State agency, MARA, is being set up to focus on offshore wind projects, water and wastewater infrastructure, bridges, marinas, coastal protection works, flood relief works, undersea telecommunications cables and power interconnectors.

There is extensive coverage about the new MPA Bill throughout this edition the MARINE TIMES.



Jennifer Constance coming around Dunree Point, Lough Swilly - Photo from Atlantic Grace

Lack of Information on EU Control Plan

The EU has been slow and reticent about providing detailed information about the application and arrangements of its new Control Plan.

Several Irish fishing organisations have expressed concern about this delay.

The Irish Islands Marine Resource Organisation Producer Organisation is one of those seeking more information on the application and arrangements of the new EU Control Plan which was approved recently by the European Commission.

"There were a number of industry briefings last year following withdrawal of the control plan derogation that led to a requirement to weigh catches on landing. IIMRO have had no updates to date on arrangements for the year ahead," it says.

See more in the IIMRO column on page 13

Irish Government – No Stomach for the Rockall Fight



It's been clear to fishermen that Irish governments down through the years have shown much weakness when it comes to defending the rights of the Irish fishing industry against all comers, writes Cormac Burke, Chairman IFSA



We don't have to look too far back to see how the outcome of the BREXIT deal shafted Ireland in corrupt EU/UK negotiations where Irish fish stocks footed the bill for the EU's fisheries compensation to the UK – a deal in which the Irish fisheries minister claimed he had fought "tooth and nail" (if this is the result of a huge effort, God knows what we'd have finished up with if he wasn't trying...).

But to rub salt into the wound, this was followed by the UK (Scottish authorities)

setting about enforcing a claim to Rockall by boarding and expelling Irish fishing vessels from these waters – declaring "enforcement action" would be taken against any future fishing efforts there by Irish vessels.

At that time, and ever since, Sinn Féin fisheries spokesperson Padraig MacLoughlin TD has voiced the anger of Irish fishermen in describing this situation as outrageous and he continues to call for action from the Irish government.

But the sounds coming from Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney and Minister for Agriculture, Food & Marine Charlie McConalogue do not inspire confidence that the Irish Government have any plans to

'go to war' to defend its fishermen.

"We need to take the heat out of the situation and look for solutions, that's diplomacy," said Minister Coveney last year when announcing Ireland wouldn't be sending the Irish Navy to defend its fishermen.

Meanwhile Minister McConalogue added that the issue is 'very important' to him and one on which "I have worked hard to make progress", adding: "The seafood task force report estimated the impact of the loss of the Rockall squid fishery is worth €7.7 million to Ireland and as a result I extended the tie-up scheme to cover vessels that could not participate in the Rockall squid fishery".

To me both of these ministerial statements indicate a weak dealing of the situation – even a 'cop out' to some extent – in international political terms, such watery statements will hardly have anyone quaking in their boots.

Minister Coveney saying diplomacy is the way to go, and Minister McConalogue offering a substitution for fisheries lost by including these vessels in a small compensation scheme – neither statement shows an ounce of defence of the State or that the Irish Government has the slightest intention of taking any 'tough stance' on Ireland's rights to the lucrative stocks of fish at Rockall.

Ireland's fishing efforts at Rockall are not recent and I myself fished there in the mid to late 1980s (MFV Salve Regina) along with many other Irish vessels, a few Scottish ones and an occasional Russian trawler – all of which often enjoyed 300-box bags of haddock, cod and saithe, with the bonus of the short squid season.

It is frightening to hear Minister McCo-

nalogue make the statement that Ireland has "never made any claims to Rockall" – as this is almost an excuse for Ireland not now to defend its case against Scotland declaring a 12-mile exclusion zone around it.

Despite the Irish Government stating that Ireland does not 'formally recognise' the 12-mile territorial sea around Rockall imposed by Britain, issuing statements to the effect of "we've been in contact with Scottish and UK authorities in 2021 and we're intensively seeking to address the issues involved" – its hardly throwing down the gauntlet or showing even the merest attempt at defending Ireland's claim.

Why is the Irish Government not raising hell over this situation? – in the way France or Spain would defend their fishermen if they felt they had a just case, particularly given the fact that this issue has the backing of the UN convention on the law of the sea (UNCLOS) who stated in 1982: "Rocks which cannot sustain human habitation or economic life of their own shall have no exclusive economic zone or continental shelf".

And, as if another reason was needed, there is also a strong case that this area is in fact part of EU fishing waters more so than British.

Is the Irish Government going to allow the Rockall situation to become another 'fait accompli' just as the BREXIT deal became? – just sit back and do nothing until its all too late and then issue a statement to say "sorry lads, we tried but failed" – this is not good enough and it is beholden on this Government to, for once at least, defend the rights of Irish fishermen and of all citizens of this country.

Russian Decision to Withdraw from Irish EEZ Is Correct

Now, Other States Need to Respect Irish Waters and Stop Naval Exercises

"The decision made by the Russian Minister for Defence Sergey Shoigu was the correct one, the withdrawal of the Russian Navy drill from the Irish EEZ is totally correct, and we must respect them for taking that decision especially when they singled out the concerns for traditional fishing grounds in the official press release," says Brendan Byrne, CEO of the IFPEA.

"Now, it is imperative that all other maritime states that take advantage of Irish waters for the purposes of naval exercises commit to doing the same. A 10-year moratorium on the carrying out of all naval exercises or drill should be immediately implemented by the Irish Government, unfortunately a complete ban is much more complicated due to international law of the seas. Therefore, Ireland using the precedent of the Russian decision of this weekend should now implement a 10-year ban on naval exercise on the basis of environmental and eco system sensitivity of the waters, the need to protect fish stocks and the reality that the Irish fishing industry cannot be any further impacted after the disastrous TCA/Brexit deal.

"The Russian decision sets a pathway for the ceasing of all naval military exercises in Irish Waters for the foreseeable future.

"The roller coaster events of the past 5 days from when Patrick Murphy and myself entered the Russian Embassy, have

proven a number of things, when united our industry can take on anything, when leadership is taken results will be yielded but perhaps most important of all – a lot can be achieved in spite of any political support. Our future will be determined by ourselves not our politicians – yes, I see Coveney is trying to do a lap of honour for simply doing nothing, but he is fooling no one. I actually feel sorry for the guy he has had a very bad week.

"Let no one forget, the industry stood alone on this occasion, our politicians ran for cover but then again that was not the first time that happened.

"The leadership shown but most importantly the support generated across the general public for the Irish fishing industry over the past number of weeks is the template for the next steps- whereby we as a united industry must finally challenge the political failures of the industry for the past 20 years. The next move is ours. So, to will be a better future for all if we seize the moment."

YOUR INDUSTRY NEEDS YOU!

The Irish Fishing & Seafood Alliance (IFSA) continues to lead the fight for justice for Ireland's fishing industry and the coastal communities who rely on it.

The IFSA is a non-profit organisation that receives no funding from any source other than the generous support from fishing vessels, processors, ancillary service companies and individuals.

YOUR support would be greatly appreciated and annual subscription rates are only €20 for an individual, €100 for an inshore vessel or sole trader and a modest rising scale for larger vessels and companies (email ifsacormac@gmail.com for further details on this).

If you want the IFSA motto of 'Your Voice in Our Industry' to continue to put pressure on this Government and the marine minister to stop neglecting our marine resources then please play your part by making your subscription.

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Thank you for your support and for becoming a part in this industry's rapidly growing fight for justice.



Cormac Burke,
Chairman,
Irish Fishing & Seafood Alliance (IFSA)
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A man in a red shirt is holding a large fish, likely a salmon, in a processing plant. The fish is hanging from a hook, and the man is looking at it. The background is dark and industrial, with other fish hanging in the background.

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BIM Ireland's
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Ireland Needs to Take Politics Out of Fishing and Set an Agreed Agenda for Our Future Generations



The Chief Executive of the Irish Fish Processors and Exporters Association, Brendan Byrne, says that it's time for all of the industry to set the future agenda for Fisheries and Marine



IFPEA

We have given out enough, whether that fell on deaf ears or receptive minds is immaterial in many ways, the onerous responsibility for charting a new future falls on all of us that represent the industry, as well as the communities that the industry supports and the politicians that represent all of us regardless of one's political beliefs. For too long our narrow focus, our divided industry, our failure to challenge the failing political system for the past 20 or 30 years has led us to where we are.

That systemic failure benefitted only those that had the power to improve or change things but instead they failed themselves, they became stale and now redundant in many ways, regardless of what positions they held in time or continue to hold. Failure we have aplenty in the Irish Fishing industry, our industry is at its lowest ever ebb, and while the Brexit Adjustment Reserve provided some chink of light, what is being announced periodically over the past number of weeks is not what the Seafood Taskforce recommended – it is in many ways short on the ambition and while I expected the same old from the same old it is disappointing. So, for one more time around the merry-go-round of failure we

go, although I still hope that the industry is not sold short on the Taskforce recommendations, then time will tell.

Enough is enough – its time to take politics out of fish and concentrate our efforts solely and microscopically on how this trajectory of decline has exactly happened, not to singularly blame anyone but to learn from the past so that the future offers some hope of survival for all levels of the industry. More of the same is no longer a realistic option.

The first step as I see it, is for the Oireachtas through a newly established Committee of Dáil Eireann, set up for a fixed term basis charged by the Dáil to examine all aspects of the fishing industry, to examine our relationship with the EU and our role within the Common Fisheries Policy with a positive focus on improvement and increased opportunities for all of the industry. We need also to have a fundamental examination of our Department of Marine, from being a mainstream Department to its current position whereby it is effectively a third add-on or adjunct to a multiple responsibility department. This committee needs to be all party, it also needs to have full powers of an Oireachtas Committee and its purpose has to be an all-party report into the future of Irish Fishing. This committee needs to be staffed by the Oireachtas under the guidance of the Clerk of the House, anything short of that would be a waste of time and certainly would not command the

support or confidence of the fishing industry. This report must set the future road map for the industry, we need to have advance agreement that its recommendations remain a political priority for all political parties in the next decade. It is only by taking politics out of the fishing industry can a better future be reached, we all have seen over time opposition parties promise and Government parties renege meantime we in the industry suffer, now is the time to call halt to all of that malarkey or nonsense. If we cannot convince those in our political system that this is the way forward, then I like the former civil servant of 1996 will predict that we entered our final decline. The challenge now is, can we unite and become as determined that it is impossible for the political system to say no to us.... We have right on our side and we can succeed if we seize the moment.

The purpose of this process must be that we reach an agreed position on the future and the committees report while having the support of all of Dáil Eireann reflects the ambition of the industry as opposed to the department because as I see it there is a vast difference between both at present.

Since the TCA/Brexit agreement of December we have failed to make any real or meaningful impact on why there must be burden sharing or levelling up, we effectively failed to gain any lost ground at the December Council despite gallant attempts, and most critically of all we are stalling at another CFP review or reassessment – and here we are as a member state going around in circles, getting nowhere rapidly.

If you are of the view that our political system has failed us for the past 20 or 30 years then so too has our permanent Government, I recall in 1996 a former senior official with a wealth of fisheries experience prophesying or foretelling the absolute demise and collapse of the Industry unless strong political leadership remained within the Department. He was 100% correct and as we all now know we in the industry were wrong that did not call it out earlier – we ignored the elephant in the room until Brexit /TCA knocked us for six. Why then could some foretell it, simple in many ways, as each year past; fishing became a lesser political priority, then that stagnation led to failure to staff the department properly with new thinking, renewal was not a priority. Unfortunately we started to lag behind other

states, some of these states I might add did not even have a fishing industry in 1996 but they roared or steamed ahead. Look at Iceland and the Faroe Islands and then look at ourselves as my old maths teacher would say in his best Latin – Quod Erat Demonstrandum

Politics has always been my main life's interest since I was 10 years of age, ok I was a political hack – though that is no longer any part of my life as I am apolitical in my approach as CEO of the IFPEA but in this instance I have sufficient wit to know, the solution to this crisis is different to anything we have done in the past. We all know right through the industry as well, that new and radical approach is urgently required and that must start with an open and frank discussion on our recent past and more importantly an agreed future strategy that we can all buy into.

The IFPEA's invitation to all political parties is join us, the entire industry in a journey of rebuilding the industry. Fishing is an Irish profession that has the greatest history of all in this nation-state but one the state through all its offices has completely failed since 1973.

I am becoming more and more impressed with our Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevicius, there is something about this Commissioner that stands out, he has a greater understanding than many of his predecessors of the Irish Fishing industry. He is open minded, fair and balanced in his approach and in time he will leave a very positive legacy for Ireland. It is critical we work in the 3 years remaining in his term in a proactive manner and push forward an agenda that reflects our needs and challenges.

Since January 1 of 2022, we are once again in a position to weigh within our factories, albeit on an interim basis until the end of April 2022. Massive disruption occurred to the entire fishing industry since April 2021. The restoration of the derogation to weigh after transport was the correct decision and one which must now transition into a permanent right.

As the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority enter into the second round of their work stoppages, we in industry while respecting an individual's right to withdraw labour or to strike, we must not become the collateral damage in this dispute as it drags on.



The last run at the Herring on Lough Foyle before they head back for the open sea - Photo courtesy Enda Craig



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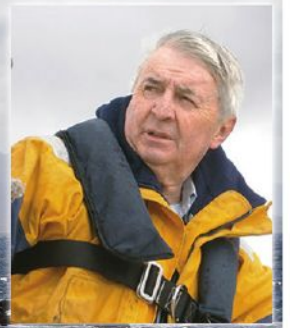
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Tom MacSweeney's

Maritime Ireland Diary



Where Is the Place of Fisheries, Aquaculture and The Marine Department in Marine Protected Areas?

It may come as a surprise that the Marine Environment Section in the Water Division of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage appears to be taking the 'lead' in decision-making about the location of MPAs – Marine Protected Areas.

This seems to me to be following on from the passing of the Marine Areas Planning Bill by the Oireachtas in mid-December.

The Department described the Bill as “the biggest reform of marine governance since the foundation of the State.”

A bit surprising then that the Department of the Marine is not to the fore in what is likely to become a major issue this year. I am told that work is underway in the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, that will lead to the designation of locations for these MPAs.

In an island nation where the Department of the Marine does not have the leading role in major maritime decisions, is this indicative of a State mindset which does not prioritise that department?

Is it because of what is surprising and hard to understand - and what Teresa Morrissey of IFA Aquaculture points out in her column in this edition of the MARINE TIMES - that aquaculture and fisheries are not included in the Maritime Area Planning (MAP) Bill recently passed by the Oireachtas, which will also mean both sectors will not have a place in the establishment of the new regulatory body, Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA).

During the public consultation process about MPAs I chaired a meeting in Cork held by the Department of Housing. It puzzled me that the Department of the Marine was not leading the consultation, but I was told that local planning and the other aspects of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage had decreed the choice in government circles. That appeared to me to mean that in an important aspect of maritime matters, the marine department was sidetracked. I gathered later that there was unhappiness about this within that department, but it was not given the deciding authority position. There was so much debate at that consultation meeting involving fisheries and aquaculture that, it is puzzling, that they have not been included in the Bill as the IFA points out.

More explanation is needed and the sooner the better.

The State agency, MARA, is being set up to focus on offshore wind projects, water and wastewater infrastructure, bridges, ma-

rinas, coastal protection works, flood relief works, undersea telecommunications cables and power interconnectors.

Elsewhere in this edition of the MARINE TIMES Dr. Simon Berrow, Chief Executive of the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group, a strong advocate of planning and protection of the marine environment, writes that the key to successful introduction of Marine Protected Areas is the involvement of coastal communities especially the fishing community. Farmers on land are rewarded for environmental measures, so fishers should be likewise, he says and adds that these areas must not be “foisted upon us from distant civil servants.” The involvement of coastal communities, especially the fishing community, will be “key to success” says Dr. Berrow.

That seems a reasonable approach and worth applying. There is reason to modernise maritime legislation which dated back to the 1800s. but frontline stakeholders - coastal communities, marine users not only civil servants, should be involved in decision-making.

There is a need for much clearer information about how these areas will be chosen and what will be their impact on those who use the marine sphere and particularly those whose livelihoods depend on it.

This issue brought to my mind Lough Hyne which, back in 1981 was designated Ireland's first Marine Nature Reserve. That is worth noting as, forty years later, more attention is now being focused on the introduction of marine protected areas and conservation zones in Irish coastal waters.

Lough Hyne is a beautiful place, nestled in a fold of hills in West Cork, close to the coastal road between Skibbereen and Baltimore, a location of serenity and peacefulness.

From my young days as a junior reporter on The Southern Star newspaper in Skibbereen I remember Lough Hyne as being a two-mile drive from the town to a beautiful marine location. It is less than a nautical mile long, within which comparatively small size, it is unique in Ireland. It is essentially a small, tidal lake, with access to the sea.

Marine investigations identified purple sea urchins there in 1886. With currents



Lough Hyne - Ireland's first Marine Nature Reserve

entering from the Atlantic through Barlogue Creek and through the area known as the 'Rapids,' it is tidal. The biodiversity of the area, a freshwater lake/seawater fed, is unique in Ireland, sustaining a variety of marine life and plants not found anywhere else in the country.

Surrounding walls at Lough Hyne were built during Famine Relief works when there was a lot of poverty amongst the population. Cloghan Castle on an island in the lake was once a fortress of the O'Driscoll clan. In my television reporting days when the St. Brigid's Cross was an icon of RTE, I was told during filming at Lough Hyne about nearby ruins of an 8th Century church to St Brigid, where “the knees of the saint have made impressions in the rocks” it was said. Take that belief according to your own views! The church was used during the Penal Times.

Lough Hyne must be one of the most scientifically-studied loughs in the world, is interesting in this regard. There are many published works about it. What is now a tidal lake was probably a freshwater one during the Atlantic Bronze Age. It is believed to have been flooded by rising sea levels around 2,000 BC. Climate change way back then!

There is expected to be a lot of controversy about Marine Protected areas, with differences between various interests and stakeholders. What will be the effect on fishing, shipping, watersports generally, on angling, where will offshore wind farms

come within this perspective?

There are 27 offshore wind farms planned at present on Irish coastal waters. Already there are threats of legal action from commercial interests against some effects of the new Marine Planning Bill.

Great care and attention is required to ensure that marine protected areas bring the widest benefits to all involved.

Who decides on their location is going to be a crucial part of their development.

Though its location may not be directly similar to what are proposed for MPAs and MCZs, Lough Hyne is an interesting perspective on the issue and what has been learnt from there should be borne in mind.

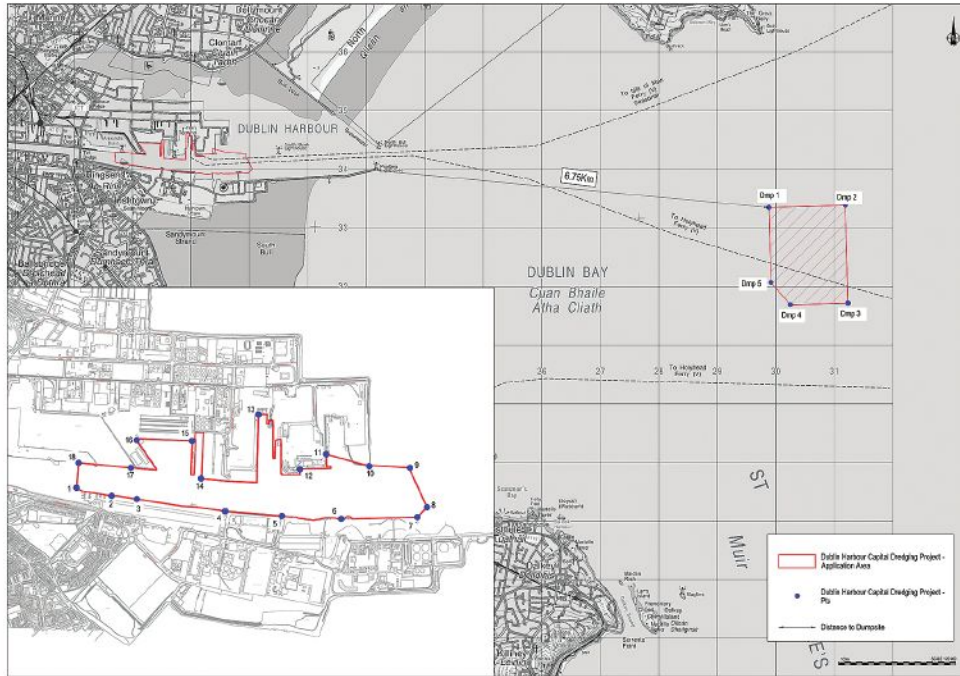
• In relation to MPAs see also IFA Aquaculture on page 13 and Irish Whale and Dolphin Group article on page 22 about MPAs



Every month, news, comment and information from MARINE TIMES RADIO Podcast. Tune in on our website- marinetimes.ie to hear an outline of what the monthly printed edition of the paper is reporting. And be sure to buy the MARINE TIMES, Ireland's leading maritime newspaper.

PUBLIC NOTICE
APPLICATION FOR A FORESHORE LICENCE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 19A of the Foreshore Act, 1933 that Dublin Port Company, Port Centre, Alexandra Road, Dublin 1, D01 H4C6 has applied for a Foreshore licence under Section 3 and 10 of the said Act, for the purpose of Capital Dredging within Dublin Harbour, Co. Dublin (Ref: FS007164).



The co-ordinates of the proposed works are set out in the table below:

Loading Area

No.	Easting (ITM)	Northing (ITM)	Latitude (DMS)	Longitude (DMS)
1	718624.05	734174.25	53° 20' 40.125"	6° 13' 6.597
2	718858.95	734108.26	53° 20' 37.801"	6° 13' 6.017
3	719053.47	734085.40	53° 20' 36.905"	6° 13' 16.486
4	719623.78	734006.41	53° 20' 33.887"	6° 12' 12.80
5	720008.86	733972.56	53° 20' 32.479"	6° 12' 7.9565
6	720404.85	733954.06	53° 20' 31.557"	6° 12' 29.328
7	720904.71	733966.17	53° 20' 31.538"	6° 11' 3.647
8	720969.94	734031.51	53° 20' 33.598"	6° 11' 0.032
9	720853.62	734296.13	53° 20' 42.250"	6° 11' 5.953
10	720585.30	734306.92	53° 20' 42.819"	6° 11' 20.43
11	720297.42	734386.86	53° 20' 45.640"	6° 12' 24.114
12	720122.74	734287.16	53° 20' 42.559"	6° 12' 14.539
13	719844.20	734653.80	53° 20' 54.643"	6° 12' 0.012
14	719458.66	734224.20	53° 20' 41.064"	6° 12' 21.43
15	719395.17	734475.51	53° 20' 49.243"	6° 12' 24.52
16	719026.90	734480.31	53° 20' 49.696"	6° 13' 15.585
17	718982.78	734296.54	53° 20' 43.790"	6° 13' 12.952
18	718638.17	734328.76	53° 20' 45.110"	6° 13' 5.626

Dump Site

No.	Easting (ITM)	Northing (ITM)	Latitude (DMS)	Longitude (DMS)
Dmp 1	729806.04	733381.97	53° 20' 5.0603	6° 3' 3.579
Dmp 2	731115.47	733417.94	53° 20' 5.0618	6° 2' 7.2075
Dmp 3	731161.54	731749.31	53° 19' 11.067	6° 2' 7.2109
Dmp 4	730173.48	731722.13	53° 19' 11.066	6° 3' 13.815
Dmp 5	729840.90	732102.71	53° 19' 23.665	6° 3' 3.582

The application is for the loading and dumping of dredged material arising from capital dredging within Dublin Harbour to allow for the safe passage and berthage of vessels of deeper draught expected to visit Dublin Port. No further capital dredging of Dublin Bay is required. The loading of dredged material will be restricted to those areas of the navigation channel, basins and berthing pockets which contain sediments which are suitable for disposal at sea (Class 1: uncontaminated, no biological effects likely). It is proposed to dispose of the dredged sediments at the existing licensed offshore disposal site located at the entrance to Dublin Bay to the west of the Burford Bank, (6.75 km from the lighthouse at the end of the Great South Wall). The approximate total amount of material to be dredged is 500,000 m³ and it consists of a mixture of clay, silt, sand, gravel and cobbles. No dredging of rock is required. Dredging will be carried out by a trailer suction hopper dredger and/or backhoe dredger and support vessels. It is proposed to limit the capital dredging and disposal at sea operations between October to March annually over an eight year period commencing October 2022. This time period will enable the capital dredging to be delivered through a series of discrete work packages to minimise disruption to existing port activities.

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) have been included in this application.

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

Section 19C of the Foreshore Act does not apply to this application.

Submissions, comments or objections in relation to the proposal may be made in writing within 8 weeks from the publication of this notice to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage at Foreshore Unit, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage at Newtown Road, Wexford, Co. Wexford or by e-mail to foreshore@housing.gov.ie (Quoting Ref: FS007164). The closing date for the receipt of written submissions, comments or questions is 17:30 on the 9th March 2022.

The foreshore application, the EIAR, associated documents, all relevant maps of the location of the proposed development, and any other reports or information (including copies of any submissions, comments, or questions accompanying this proposal) may be inspected free of charge within 8 weeks of this notice, between 12th January 2022 and 9th March 2022, at the following locations:

- **Irish Town Garda Station**, 57 Irishtown Road, Dublin 4. Documents can be viewed Monday to Friday between the hours of 09:00 and 17:00, no appointment is necessary
- **Store Street Garda Station**, 4-6 Store Street, Dublin 1. Documents can be viewed Monday to Friday between the hours of 09:00 and 17:00, no appointment is necessary
- **Dublin Port Centre**, Alexandra Road, Dublin 1. Documents can be viewed Monday to Friday between the hours of 09:00 and 17:00, by appointment only due to Covid-19 restrictions. Appointments can be made by phoning 01 8876000 during normal working hours and asking for Charlie Murphy or in his absence, Eamon McElroy.
- **Dublin City Council**, Planning Office, Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8. Documents can be viewed Monday to Friday between 09:00 and 12:00 and 13:00 and 16:30, an appointment is necessary. Appointments can be made by telephoning the Planning Department of Dublin City Council at 01 2222149 or email planning@dublincity.ie
- **Charleville Mall Library**, N Strand Road, Dublin 1. Documents can be viewed Monday to Thursday 10am to 1pm & 2pm to 5pm. Alternate Friday/Saturday opening 10am to 1pm & 2pm to 5pm, an appointment is necessary. Appointments can be made by phoning 01 2228411 during normal working hours.

The documentation is available on the Department's website at:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/foreshore-notice/e7d34-dublin-port-capital-dredging/>

The application may also be viewed on the following dedicated website at:

<https://www.dublinportdredgingforeshoreconsent.ie>

An e-copy that includes the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, maps, site plans and drawings, and a copy of the foreshore application may be purchased at reasonable cost from Dublin Port Company at the address stated above or by emailing info@dublinport.ie or by phoning 01 8876000 during normal working hours and asking for Charlie Murphy or in his absence, Eamon McElroy.

Take notice that material upon which the Minister shall determine this application will be published on the Department's website. In this regard the Department wishes to draw attention to its policy on defamatory material that may be contained in submissions it receives which may be found on the Department's website at:

<http://www.housing.gov.ie/planning/foreshore/public-participation-foreshore-consent-process>

Dated this 12th January 2022

Michael Sheary, Company Secretary, Dublin Port Company, Port Centre, Alexandra Road, Dublin 1, Ireland

IFA's Aquaculture Executive, Teresa Morrissey, in her monthly column points out that Aquaculture and Fisheries has not been included in the Maritime Area Planning Bill and says Irish Aquaculture cannot be forgotten.



Irish Aquaculture Cannot Be Forgotten When It Comes to Coastal Development

IFA Aquaculture

In a recent episode of RTE One's 'Eco Eye' we saw the topic of the National Marine Planning Framework and the forthcoming Marine Protected Areas being discussed.

There was a notable mention for Irish Aquaculture on account of aquaculture and fisheries not being included in the Maritime Area Planning (MAP) Bill recently passed by the Oireachtas, which will also mean both sectors will not have a place in the establishment of the new regulatory body, Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA).

It was asked during the episode whether the introduction of the MAP Bill will make life easier for obtaining aquaculture licenses and the short answer is of course - No.

The introduction of the MAP Bill or indeed the establishment of the new regulatory authority in the Maritime space will not change anything about the aquaculture licensing system in its current form. However, there was reference to the fact that it is inevitable that aquaculture will have to be part of both the MAP Bill and MARA, in time – but the question is how much more time? How much more time will it take before aquaculture is properly considered when it comes to development management of the Marine space?

We hope it won't take too long more, as it was also announced by Minister McConalogue recently that there will be a new €35m infrastructure scheme aimed at rejuvenating local authority piers and harbours in coastal communities. Local authorities

will be responsible for the distribution of the funds and delivering projects to improve infrastructure of local piers and harbours in coastal communities. It is anticipated that 'shovel ready' projects that were already possibly in line for works will be prioritised. This fund is a substantial sum of money available for piers and harbours that would be in use by aquaculture producers in coastal counties – it is important that local authorities are made aware of the needs for coastal infrastructure to facilitate aquaculture production as well as inshore fishing and recreational activities.

IFA Aquaculture AGM to take place in Spring 2022

When I last wrote in December 2021, in light of continued uncertainty of Covid restrictions, the IFA Aquaculture Committee had decided to host the IFA Aquaculture AGM online in February 2022 unless restrictions would allow closer the time.

As we all know, Covid restrictions have been eased significantly in recent weeks allowing for larger in-person events to now take place. In that light, plans are now afoot at pace to host the IFA Aquaculture AGM in Spring 2022! Please keep an eye on IFA social media for updates as a date and venue will be confirmed very shortly. The 2-year term of the current IFA Aquaculture Committee is currently coming to an end, and elections may be held for any vacancies on the committee that may arise. Notice of the AGM and all relevant documents will be circulated to members no later than 14 days in advance of the AGM as per IFA Aquaculture rules. Looking forward to seeing you all in person in 2022!

IIMRO are continuing to work on a number of issues affecting our members and the wider fishing community according to Seamus Bonner, Secretary IIMRO



Line Caught Mackerel Fishery

There have been on-going discussions about the early closure of the line caught mackerel fishery in 2021 at the Quota Management Advisory Committee (QMAC) and elsewhere. IIMRO have called repeatedly for a full public consultation on how the mackerel fishery resource is allocated in Ireland to ensure that the publicly owned quota is not monopolised by a small number of large fishing companies.

The current allocation of 400 tonnes from a total of 55,000 tonnes to the majority of the fleet, for a highly selective and sustainable line fishery, is unacceptable and flies in the face of common sense as well as policy at national and EU level.

IIMRO has also raised the issue of swapping mackerel quota to other EU member states even while the line caught fishery was closed, another example of why the current mackerel policy must be updated to reflect reality on the ground and post-Brexit total allowable catches.

IIMRO has continued representations to our MEPs in the European Parliament and via our affiliation with the Low Impact Fishers of Europe (LIFE).

At a recent hearing at the EU PECH committee on the allocation of quota under Article 17 of the Common Fisheries Policy, MEP Grace O'Sullivan raised the issue of the line caught mackerel fishery in Ireland and urged the European Commission to take a number of steps to ensure that there is fair access to quota for the island and small scale fleet into the future.

EU Control Plan

IIMRO are seeking more information on the application and arrangements of the new EU Control Plan which was approved recently by the European Commission.

There were a number of industry briefings last year following withdrawal of the control plan derogation that led to a requirement to weigh catches on landing. IIMRO have had no updates to date on arrangements for the year ahead.

IIMRO Production and Marketing Plan Approved

IIMRO was recognised as an EU Producer Organisation in May of 2021 and since then has been working with members to develop a three-year production and marketing plan. The plan has been approved recently by the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine evaluation committee and will facilitate a number of initiatives which will benefit members and the wider island communities. Initiatives such as improving prices for catches, onshore infrastructure, marketing, encouraging new entrants, recognising the role of women in fisheries as well as various training programmes are planned for the course of the plan which covers the next three years. IIMRO will have further details of the plan in the next edition of the Marine Times.

As shown in the heading of this column, IIMRO have updated our logo to include a QR code link to our website – please do visit it.



Graduates of the Higher Diploma in Business in Fisheries & Aquaculture Course (l-r): Director Amy Allen (Clongeen), William Hurley (Donegal/Cork); Valerie Moore with husband Des and four of her five children (Donegal); in background Patricia Power, Dick Bates (HDip Steering Committee rep) and Carol O'Kelly, Paraic Casey (Galway), Máire Ni Einníú, Udaras Na Gaeltachta, John Power, John Hickey, BIM (Fethard on Sea) and the Dempsey/Doyle family group from Arklow comprising Darragh Doyle, Eamon Doyle, Kim Dempsey, Kate Dempsey, who received her Law Degree and Danny Dempsey. See page 25 for more details.

news from **Northern Ireland**
 editor@marinetimes.ie



Silent Valley leaving Ardglass for a day at the lobsters - Photo courtesy Christopher Feenan

Multi-Million Pound Investment in Fishing Harbours Moves Step Closer

Fisheries Minister Edwin Poots has announced that a multi-million pound investment in Northern Ireland's three key fishing harbours has moved a step closer.

During a visit to Kilkeel Harbour the Minister welcomed the latest development which could mean a major investment in the fishing infrastructure ensuring the industry was fit for the 21st century.

"Our fishing vessels and seafood processing industries are vital to the Northern Ireland economy creating an annual turnover of £135million and supporting 1,550 jobs," said Minister Poots.

"For the future of these industries it is vital we move ahead with these major developments. If we get approval for funding we envisage around £100million will be invested in key infrastructure at Kilkeel, Ardglass and Portavogie.

"My department has secured a significant amount of money, which I believe reflects my commitment and support for the future of our fishing industry, to procure and carry out essential environmental and technical studies to progress the harbour development proposals to the next stage.

"These projects are complicated and take time and there is some way to go before we can take final decisions to build new harbours.

"However, this is an important first step and we look forward to working closely with the Harbour Authority, the fishing industry and others to further develop the proposals to a stage where we can secure necessary approvals and finance to transform our fishery harbours," added Minister Poots.

The proposals include £73million to create a new harbour at Kilkeel which would also see it become an Irish Sea Marine Hub – a centre of economic and marine activity for things such as aquaculture, leisure boating and boat repair and decommissioning – supporting the fishing industry and wider blue economy. It would also have a deeper approach channel to allow larger vessels to land. The approach channel at Ardglass would also be deepened costing some £20million.

The £5million proposal for Portavogie would include developing the existing harbour and abandoned buildings.

Last year the Fishing and Seafood Development Programme (FSDP) published a report setting out a clear vision for developing Northern Ireland's harbour infrastructure.

Minister Poots welcomed that vision saying: "Our fishing and seafood industry must be fit for the 21st Century and be prosperous and sustainable. It must be in a position to take advantage of new fishing opportunities and contribute to green growth.

"To remain competitive replacement fishing vessels need to be more efficient, safer and comfortable places to work. They will need to adapt to net zero carbon targets, reduce emissions and be able to use fishing gears with less environmental impacts. This is likely to mean larger, deeper or wider vessels, and this means investment in the infrastructure to support this new generation of fishing vessels."

UK Government and Devolved Governments Seek Views on the Joint Fisheries Statement

The UK Government, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland, Scottish Government, and Welsh Government are launching a public consultation on the Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS).

A key component of the Fisheries Act 2020, the Joint Fisheries Statement sets out the legally binding policies the UK Government and Devolved Governments will follow, at a UK level and individually, as they work together to deliver world-class sustainable fisheries and aquaculture management.

The consultation, running from 18 January to 12 April 2022, will welcome views from industry and environmental stakeholders, the public and all those interested and affected by the proposed policies.

The Joint Fisheries Statement sets out policies from the respective governments for achieving, or contributing to achieving, the eight objectives outlined in the Fisheries Act 2020 which will help to achieve the UK's vision for clean, healthy, safe, productive, and biologically diverse oceans and seas.

In line with the Fisheries Act's objectives and international obligations, the Joint Fisheries Statement sets out how the UK will adopt an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management and includes a commitment to mapping and protecting our blue carbon resources.

It recognises the importance of fishing and aquaculture, and the benefits it provides to all parts of the UK as a source of employment and identity for our coastal communities. To support this, the Joint

Fisheries Statement includes policies to help the industry thrive, including commitments to upskilling industry and succession planning, and promoting the consumption of locally sourced seafood.

The Joint Fisheries Statement sets out three main areas to deliver their ambition:

- Protecting and, where necessary, recovering our fish stocks;
- Reducing the effects of fishing on the marine and coastal environment; and
- Supporting a modern, resilient, and environmentally responsible fishing industry.

Edwin Poots MLA, Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland, said: "I'm pleased that we are now in a position to share this consultation draft of the Joint Fisheries Statement. The Fisheries Act 2020 was the first, key milestone for the fishing industry in Northern Ireland as the UK entered a new era as an independent coastal State.

"This draft JFS is the next key milestone. We promised a JFS, and we are now delivering on it. It forms an important part of the overall fisheries framework, as it will set out our plans to pursue sustainable fisheries policies that will benefit both the fishing industry and the marine environment for many years to come.

"I would encourage everyone who has an interest in achieving the UK's vision of having clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas to get involved in this consultation as we further develop this draft JFS."

NEWS?

If you have any news, views or photos from any of the harbours or coastal communities in Northern Ireland please do email us at editor@marinetimes.ie

THE MARINE TIMES INTERVIEW

“Seagoing is something you have to be dedicated to and the reality is that it takes a special type of person to undertake the duties that any merchant seaman or a person from the Navy will undertake,” the Flag Officer Commanding Naval Service Operations, Commodore Michael Malone, tells Deputy Editor, Tom MacSweeney, in this month’s MARINE TIMES INTERVIEW. He discusses challenges facing the Navy, difficult decisions about sea operations due to lack of personnel, recruitment and the future.

Commodore Michael Malone joined the Naval Service in 1981. A time when it was challenging to get jobs during difficult economic times in Ireland. He had one, but it was not what he wanted in life. On leaving school he had been accepted into the Civil Service and appointed to the Department of Social Welfare, working for six months in their Dublin headquarters.

That seems an unusual change of jobs. He has a chuckle at my reaction and explains that, going through school, he was interested in engineering and science. When Engineering Cadetships were advertised for the Naval Service, he was accepted and headed for the sea: “I didn’t see Social Welfare as the place I wanted to be forever. I haven’t regretted the decision to join the Navy.”

We are in Naval operational headquarters at the Haulbowline Base, Cork Harbour.

He has been 40 years in the Naval Service, so I ask for a memory of his first seagoing. He refers to a tragedy that I remember reporting - the Air India Flight 182 disaster on Sunday, June 23, 1985, when a bomb placed aboard by Sikh militants plunged the plane into the Atlantic off the Kerry coast killing all 329 passengers and crew aboard.

Michael Malone had been appointed to L.E. Eithne and was engaged in the successful search for the plane’s black box. “That was my first time working as a qualified Engineering Officer at sea, so it is a memory that stays with me of a particularly terrible tragedy.”

Commodore Malone was the Navy’s Programme Manager for the design and building of its P60 Class of Offshore Patrol vessels which has delivered 90-metre OPVs to the Service. I’ve seen some of the vessels in the dockyard while on the way to meet him. He tells me they were designed to improve seakeeping, efficiency and safety for crews in what, have become increasingly challenging waters, particularly off the West Coast. Despite travails of not having enough personnel to sail them all, having been involved in designing them must be a source of satisfaction I suggest.

“Indeed and during the 75th anniversary celebrations of the Service last year, five of the vessels I was involved with the designing and building of, Roisin and the four OPV 60s were all at sea. I was pleased at that.”

He was promoted to Flag Officer Commanding the Naval Service (FOCNS) on St. Stephen’s Day, December 26, 2017, taking up the post at a challenging time, with the difficulties in recruiting, keeping enough personnel and, due to staffing shortages, having to reduce sea-going operations.

Michael Malone has seen similar situations before: “It is a challenging time, but we have seen peaks and troughs over the years. I have 40 years’ service and I have seen this happen previously. It has been exacerbated by the Covid challenge. People are slow to engage in joining the defence forces, but we will turn that corner.”

What about the Commission on the Defence Forces review, will it deliver positive developments: He is positive “That could bring us into the future of how we operate. I think there will be more joint activity right across the Forces, between ourselves,

the Army and the Air Corps, which will benefit all Services. We are also looking at potential use of a multi-role vessel, giving us opportunity to work with other nations as we have done heretofore in operations like Sofia and in the Mediterranean.”

He understands that there is a benefit in making service in the Navy an exciting role, those interested in joining will see that as an attraction, but what about not being able to operate all ships at the same time?

“Operational levels take people and time to develop and retain skill sets. You have to have qualified personnel to work in a safe manner aboard ship. I have been to the forefront in pushing for safety at sea. We have been challenged to get vessels to sea. I have no doubt that in time we will have the personnel numbers we need to have vessels operational when we need. We have a significant sea area to patrol. It takes significant effort.”

Those challenges in Irish waters include drug interdiction in which the Navy has been strongly involved and been very successful. Preventing the drugs scourge as much as possible from getting into the country has to be a major aim and has involved close in-

ternational co-operation with security services in other countries.

“We have vessels capable of covering Irish waters and will get the personnel we need,” Commodore Malone says. “We have a high quality of personnel and work as effectively as we can with the resources we have and we have proven that.”

The extent of Irish waters is wide and large, but the man in charge of Naval operations is confident about the Service’s Personnel: “For decades the personnel of the Naval Service have put their own safety second to fulfilling their duties of protecting the State and its inhabitants. Arms shipments have been intercepted. Drug interdictions have been successfully carried out. Rescue and emergency operations have been carried out in difficult, arduous conditions. Migrant rescues have been conducted in the Mediterranean. Naval personnel have supported the HSE in the Covid 19 pandemic. The roles the men and women of the Navy undertake are as many as they are varied.”

Commodore Malone says the Naval approach to having women in all roles has been successful. He would like to see more women applying to join the Navy. And he points out that when referring to ‘personnel’ there are also the families of servicemen and women to be taken into consideration.

Our interview, carried out before Russian Naval exercises off the South/West coast of Ireland were notified to the Irish government, so they were not a topic raised in the interview, is ended with this comment: “Seagoing 24/7, 365 days a year is something you have to be dedicated to and the reality is that it takes a special type of person to undertake the duties that any merchant seaman or a person from the Navy will undertake.”



Atlantic Dawn Welcome 'LEILA' to Killybegs



The McHugh family and crew pictured at the launch of the 'LEILA' in Killybegs. (Above l-r): Kevin Mc Hugh, Vera Mc Hugh, Karl Mc Hugh, Noreen Mc Hugh and Paul Mc Hugh. (Below l-r): Karl Rose, Christopher Noctor, Bertie Gillen, Shane Cunningham, Ronan White, Noel Connaghan, Sean Brennan and Kevin Mc Hugh (Skipper of the Leila). Photos courtesy John Cunningham



The sight of a new vessel arriving into any home port is a welcome sight – such was the scene recently in Killybegs for the arrival of Atlantic Dawn's new vessel MFV 'LEILA'.

"LEILA" is the first of three sister vessels that are being constructed at the Cemre shipyard in Istanbul, Turkey. The vessels were designed by the Norwegian naval architects Salt Ship Design. This company is owned by the Sandvik family, who has a long standing relationship with the Mc Hugh Family, having designed all of their new fishing vessels as far back as the very first "Veronica" in 1987.

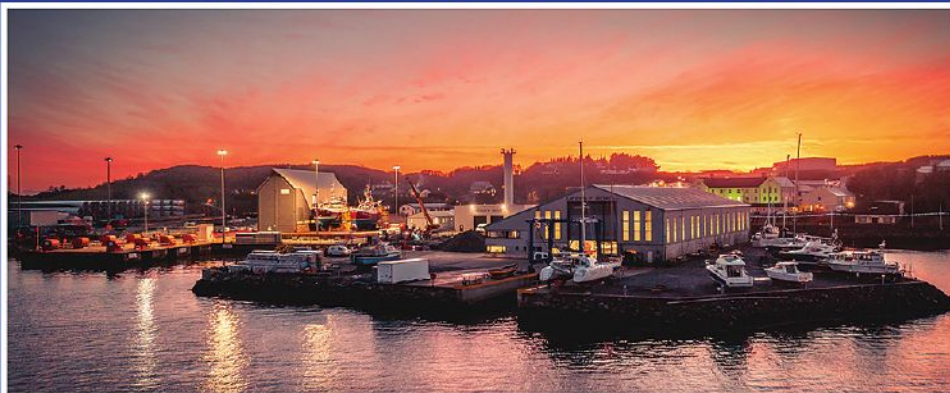
The 'LEILA' is 64.65m long with a beam of 14m and a total GT of 2,172.

The design brief for the vessel focused on incorporating as many environmentally friendly features as possible. The Atlantic Dawn Group wanted a truly 'green' vessel. As a result, the 'LEILA' is the first pure pelagic trawler to have a hybrid propulsion system installed. The vessel has a sophisticated electrical integration system that allows for future increases in battery capacity as this technology improves or alternatively the introduction of non fossil fuel energy sources.



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Best wishes to Atlantic Dawn Group and all the crew of the 'LEILA' from all the KER Group



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Additionally, the vessel has installed an SCR system to reduce its NOx exhaust gas emissions by up to 95%.

The vessel has a fully enclosed forward shelter deck and a spacious aft fishing deck designed to provide optimal working conditions and safety for the crew.

The vessel's interior is also designed and finished to the highest standards. The wheelhouse features a split level aft trawling station with large panoramic windows. The lounge and mess areas are spacious and comfortable. The vessel also has nine ensuite crew cabins for each seafarer who works on board.

The Atlantic Dawn Group has praised the quality and workmanship of local Killybegs companies involved in the project. These include Seaquest Systems, Barry Electronics, MMG Welding and Swan Net Gundry.

The 'LEILA' will be captained by Kevin Mc Hugh, who is also Director of Fishing Operations in the Atlantic Dawn Group. The godmother of the vessel is his daughter, Leila.

This project has taken over four years from the initial design meetings until the final arrival of the 'LEILA' to her home port.

The Atlantic Dawn Group is very grateful to all their employees who have worked so hard to make this project a success.



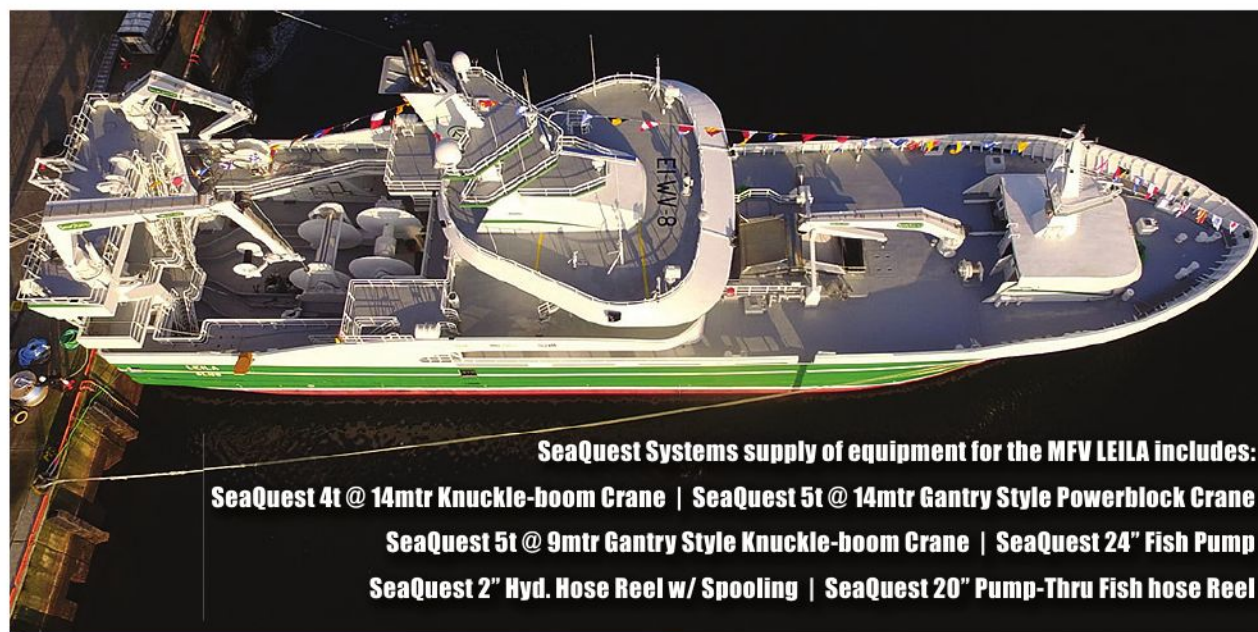
Leila Mc Hugh (vessel Godmother) with her father and skipper, Kevin Mc Hugh
Photos courtesy John Cunningham

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SeaQuest Systems are proud to have supplied the complete supply of deck equipment to ATLANTIC DAWN's new vessel, MFV LEILA - We wish owners, skipper and crew every success and safe seas



SeaQuest Systems supply of equipment for the MFV LEILA includes:

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New Powerful Pelagic Design for the 'Leila'

TYPE 32 BLUESTREAM – Highly Efficient Trawl Door with A Lot of Power

A smart development of the well-known TYPE 22 BLUESTREAM, which has been on the market since 2017 lead Thyboron TrawlDoor towards the new TYPE 32 BLUESTREAM. The BLUESTREAM technology is still the key feature of the new pelagic trawl door. By developing a door with a more fluent and efficient waterflow Thyboron TrawlDoor has succeeded in making an even more powerful design than the TYPE 22. The concept is simple- a door that creates greater spread with same resistance as the previous model.

From knowledge gained by CFD simulations, wind tunnel and flumetank testing we have made the new design with deeper and longer foils, when these trawl doors are towed through the water, the double foiling Bluestream-system forces water through the deep foils at higher speed thus creating a greater amount of lift while at the same time reducing drag impact.

From a testing period Thyboron TrawlDoor have seen and gotten the feedback that this design shows to be more steady and easy handling than the previous TYPE 22.



As one of their patented features, the TYPE 32 BLUESTREAM also comes as a FLIPPER model. The FLIPPER system has also gone through an improving development since Thyboron TrawlDoor have now made the flaps much easier to use and it is now possible to have it as either a manual solution or a hydraulic solution.

Both options are easier than the old system to operate from the vessel without any dangerous moves outside the vessel. The manual solution is operated by two springlocks on each foil that

helps to open / close the foil and locked in the wanted positioning.

The hydraulic system allows the fisherman to position the foils with only a few pushes on a hydraulic pump.

With the flipper function it is possible to reduce the spreading power of the trawl door by easily closing 1 or 2 flaps in the door. This system offers a lot of adjustment possibilities for many different fishing setups and provides extremely high stability when fishing deep or fishing very close to the surface with a lot of turns. Furthermore, this feature can increase the efficiency of the trawl doors even more than with only the BLUESTREAM

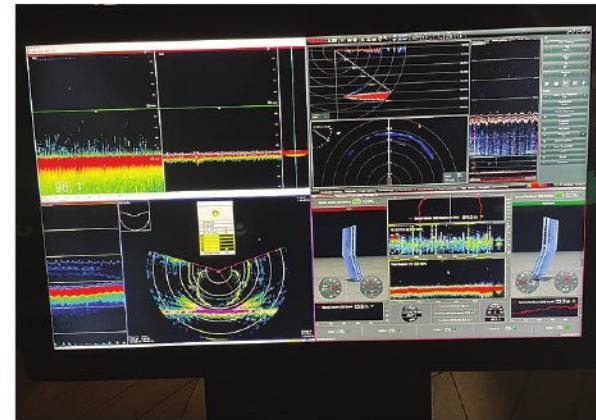
technology implemented.

Atlantic Dawn have chosen Thyboron

TrawlDoor's new TYPE 32 BLUESTREAM with hydraulic adjustable foils for their new-build vessel LEILA which is the first in line of 3 environmentally sensitive and efficient trawlers built for Atlantic Dawn.

'Leila' will be fishing for mackerel, horse-mackerel and blue whiting and Thyboron TrawlDoor are proud to be a part of the project and wish Atlantic Dawn, the McHugh family and all

the crew of the 'Leila' every success and safe fishing in the future.



Leila Package Supplied by Barry Electronics

The extensive array of electronic equipment (navigation, fish finding and communication) for Atlantic Dawn's news vessel 'LEILA' was all supplied, installed and commissioned by Barry Electronics Ltd at the Cemre Shipyard in Turkey.

The package included the following:

Display system: BEL Pacific MS-6C Video Matrix Interswitch System with 2 control stations. Main monitors: 4 x 55" 4K Hatteland Tilting monitors. Aft and Overhead: 11 x 26" HD Hatteland monitors

LF sonar: Furuno FSV-25S, Low Frequency Sonar. HF sonar: Furuno FSV-75 High Frequency Sonar. Echo sounder 1: Simrad ES-80 38/120khz Echosounder. Echo sounder 2: Simrad SN90 Forward Looking Sounder. Echo sounder 2: Furuno FCV-1900 Broadband Echo Sounder. Echo sounder 3: Furuno FSS-1BB Fish ID Echo Sounder. Current indicator: Furuno CI68 Doppler Current Indicator. Net monitor: Marport M6 Receiver for Trawl Monitoring. Trawl sonar: Simrad FS-70 Trawl Sonar.

Radar 1 (3 cm): Furuno FAR 2228-X Band Radar. Radar 2 (10 cm): Furuno FAR 2238-S band Radar. Radar 3: Furuno

DRS6A-NXT Solid State Radar. Ecdis: Furuno FMD3200/3100 BB Dual ECDIS. Plotter 1: MaxSea Time Zero Chart Plotter. Plotter 2: Sodena Fishing Win V9. Plotter 3: Olex, 3D Bottom Mapping Plotter. GPS 1: Furuno GP-170 GPS Navigator. GPS 2: Furuno GP-33 GPS Navigator. AIS: Furuno

FA-170 AIS. Gyro compass: Simrad GC-80. Satellite Compass: Furuno SC70. Autopilot: Simrad AP70 Mk2 Autopilot with Aft AP70 Station.

V-SAT Internet: BEL VSAT Thor 7 Ka System. Sat-TV system: Intellian t80-Q Satellite TV System. GMDSS: Area A2 GMDSS.

SSB: Sailor 6310 MF/HF DSC Radio. VHF's: Sailor 6222 VHF DSC Radio, 2 x Sailor 6210 VHF Radio

Deck Communications: 9 x Gecko Helmets connected to Icom coms. Intercom: 2 x Furuno LH5000 Loud Hailer System for Fwd and Aft areas. PABX: Telephone Exchange with 5 Extensions. CCTV: 6 Station with 18 cameras.





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**Best Wishes to ATLANTIC DAWN and all the crew
with your new vessel "LEILA"**

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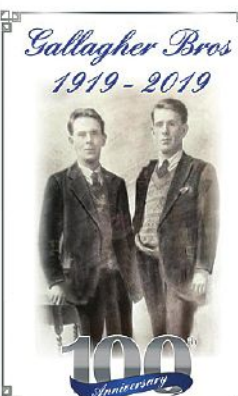
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Grieving Families Mark First Year Since Devastating *Nicola Faith* Loss by Vowing to Help RNLI Prevent Further Commercial Fishing Tragedies

‘They [RNLI] didn’t bring the boys home, but they brought us hope when we needed it’ said Nathania Minard, mum of lost fisherman, Alan Minard, who was sadly lost alongside his crew mates Carl McGrath and Ross Ballantine in the *Nicola Faith* tragedy.

One year ago, the *Nicola Faith* fishing vessel went missing off the coast of Conwy with three crew members on board. The bodies of crew Carl (34), Ross (39) and Alan (20) were found, several weeks after their vessel went missing on 27 January 2021.

The families of the three fishermen who sadly lost their lives have shared their heart-breaking stories in video interviews and pledged to work with the RNLI to improve commercial fishing safety and prevent other families suffering.

The families of all three men have since raised thousands of pounds, including a JustGiving page that raised £11,500, for the RNLI after lifeboats spent more than 90 hours at sea searching for the men.

Additionally, a GoFundMe page raised thousands to help fund a private search thanks to the kindness of the local community. The families have now announced some of the remaining funds will support the RNLI in its bid to save more lives.

The families are currently exploring a variety of options and working with the RNLI to determine how the funds will be best spent to provide a lasting legacy to their loved ones.

The RNLI invited the families to the Fleetwood Offshore Survival Centre to witness an event the charity is carrying out with the Fishing Industry Safety Group (FISG). They attended classroom sessions and watched from the side-lines, as fishermen were put into a survival pool with and without lifejackets to experience first-hand the benefit of wearing one.

Man overboard recovery training also took place. The course delivery is led by the RNLI. Seafish are the administrators of the fund put together by the MCA and Trinity House.

As part of the course, which was attended by fishermen from across North Wales, the families spoke with delegates about the impact of their loss in the hope they would see the importance of wearing the correct kit and having a plan in an emergency situation.

Ross Ballantine’s sister Lowri Taylor said: ‘One year on, we’re wanting to create a lasting legacy to the boys and use our experience to share our story and hopefully save more lives. It’s too early to say what measures may have prevented this dreadful incident, but anything that improves safety and gives fishermen a better chance has got



The *Nicola Faith* families mark the first anniversary of the tragedy. The family are working with the RNLI to help improve commercial fishing safety. (Pictured l-r): Lowri Taylor, Amy Lamb, Pauline Ballantine, Hannah Lamb and Andrew Ballantine at the location where the *Nicola Faith* was berthed on Conwy Quay.

to be a good thing.

‘We don’t want any other families to suffer in the way we have all done and feel by supporting the RNLI and speaking about our experience, we can make a difference.

‘It was so very emotional for us to be there and see the fishermen who worked alongside our loved ones. However, we are grateful for the experience of meeting face to face with them and helping them to understand the impact of what is left behind. We are thrilled that the RNLI is using our interviews on future courses and hope our story helps change attitudes to safety.’

Frankie Horne, RNLI Fishing Safety Manager says: ‘The family has shown such compassion and strength in wanting to use

their tragic experience to prevent more lives being lost. The RNLI and its partners have been running these awareness events for a number of years. We are so grateful to the family for helping us to provide a real-life element of the course, which I firmly believe will be the most powerful tool in changing attitudes and behaviour. We are looking forward to continuing our relationship with the families and helping educate on the various projects running to improve commercial fishing safety.’

The RNLI with its partners is currently running in-water man-overboard recovery and Lifejacket training sessions in Fleetwood, Aberdeen, South Shields, Lowestoft, Cork, and at the RNLI’s purpose-built college in Poole.

New Mersey Class Lifeboat at Newcastle

Report by Nuala McAloon

When it was retired from active service at Margate on England’s southeast coast in April last year, the Mersey class all-weather lifeboat faced an uncertain future but RNLB Leonard Kent has now arrived at its new home at Newcastle where it will continue its lifesaving work.

Leonard Kent initially spent some time at the RNLI Support Centre at Poole but was considered worthy of further service and subsequently earmarked to replace Newcastle’s existing Mersey class lifeboat from where it will operate until building work at the station has been completed and their new Shannon class all-weather lifeboat arrives. Leonard Kent was moved to a boatyard at West Cowes on the Isle of Wight and treated to a life-extension programme including upgrading the electronics to the latest Systems and Information Management System (SIMS). Leonard Kent would have been familiar with its surroundings having been built at the then FBM Marine shipyard at Cowes in 1992.

On receiving the new lifeboat to Newcastle RNLI, Lifeboat Operations Manager

Lisa Ramsden said: ‘It is with a sense of nostalgia that we bid farewell to our outgoing all-weather lifeboat, the Eleanor and Bryant Girling, which served the Newcastle community and all those whose aid she went to, for almost 30 years.’

Training on the new upgraded Systems and Information Management System was carried out while the lifeboat was on passage from Dun Laoghaire to Newcastle. The removal of the original radar and navigation system from the Mersey helps to reduce weight and create more space in the wheelhouse while an additional benefit for us here in Newcastle RNLI is that the new system will ensure the volunteer crew are prepared and proficient in the radar and navigation systems that will come with their future Shannon class lifeboat





IRISH WHALE AND DOLPHIN GROUP IWDG NEWS

The key to successful introduction of Marine Protected Areas is the involvement of coastal communities especially the fishing community, says the Chief Executive of the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group, Dr. Simon Berrow. Farmers on land are rewarded for environmental measures, so fishers should be likewise. These areas must not be "foisted upon us from distant civil servants."

New Opportunities and Challenges

I wrote this on the first day of the new year, 22 December, after the longest night of the Winter Solstice celebrated Earth's regeneration or rebirth, and which is associated with health and fertility. This applies to our oceans too.

Winter storms replenish the surface waters with essential elements to fuel the spring plankton growth. This will support our rich marine biodiversity, our commercially important fish and shellfish, and thus our coastal communities. It is all connected.

The new year brings new opportunities and challenges.

The Irish Whale and Dolphin Group have been looking ahead to 2022 to identify our priorities and ensure we have the resources to achieve them. Top of our list are Marine Protected Areas or "Marine Conservation Zones" as we prefer to call them. The time for MCZs is now. As well as legal EU obligations, the designation of MPAs are also in the current programme of Government. More importantly MPAs or MCZs are an essential tool to try and turn the tide of continued degradation of our marine habitats and decimation of some marine species.

Marine Conservation Zones should not be seen

as a threat to coastal communities in Ireland but an opportunity. Those who work at sea, or who will be directly affected must take ownership of these opportunities. We must take the lead and the initiative and not have these new designations foisted upon us from distant civil servants.

However the key to successful MPA/MCZ is the involvement of coastal communities especially the fishing community. Of course there will be pain and sacrifices if fishers are required to cease or reduce their fishing effort in key areas. How will they be compensated for this loss for the greater good?

Farmers on land are rewarded for environmental measures, so fishers should be likewise.

They could be the guardians of these

MCZs ensuring management measures, which seek to improve biodiversity and abundance, are respected. Lyme Bay Fisheries and Conservation Reserve off SW England is often quoted as an excellent example of how MPA designation can benefit many (not all) marine users. This MPA has protected 206km² of seabed from bottom trawling since 2008. This has led to a fourfold increase in fish species inside the MPA compared to outside, where bottom trawling is still allowed. Fish biomass has increased by 370%. Some fishing,

largely with pots, is still allowed and fish producers are getting premium rates for marketing their product from a marine protected and managed area. Visitors preferentially visit MPAs compared to similar sites not designated, which brings opportunities to local retailers and accommodation, outdoor marine activity providers and education and awareness programmes.

In 2022 we need to start a

number of pilot MCZs in Ireland to explore the issues and concerns around MPA designation. Build partnerships and trust between stakeholders. Develop monitoring programmes to measure empirically, the impacts of MPA designation on a suite of species and habitats, to inform managers as to what changes may occur at sites elsewhere.

This should not be rushed, but should start with listening to fishers and communities and build alliances to ensure this essential management tool is truly effective at building resilient marine ecosystem and coastal communities.

Irish Whale
and Dolphin Group

www.iwdg.ie



Trio of leaping dolphins courtesy Dr Simon Berrow



WATER SAFETY IRELAND REPORT

John Leech – Chief Executive
Water Safety Ireland

WSI Is Launching a New Programme for Secondary Schools

A resolution from our parents, teachers and carers to educate our children with the life skills of water in 2022 is needed to continue to reduce the high level of accidental drownings in Ireland. I am urging all parents, teachers and carers to ensure that their children engage with the three Water Safety Educational Programmes that Water Safety Ireland (WSI) provides to our pre-school, primary school and secondary schools to equip our children with the necessary life skills in water safety of swimming, basic lifesaving and awareness of the dangers and hazards of all aquatic environments.

Last year WSI launched the 'Hold Hands' programme for pre-schools <https://watersafety.ie/hold-hands/> and resources were designed by WSI to highlight potential water safety dangers at home, on farms, on the beach, at rivers, lakes and on holiday. Storyboards, grab children's imagination and include a cleverly designed pointer, shaped like a hand, so whenever a child engages in water safety learning, they are physically holding a hand to reinforce the behavioural change the lessons are trying to instil. These resources were welcomed by our Pre-Schools nationwide.

In 2003 WSI's PAWS (Primary Aquatics Water Safety) programme was launched, <https://www.teachpaws.ie/> It outlines the essential life-saving guidelines that every child needs to know. It is recognised as part of the Physical Education syllabus of the Department of Education for Primary Schools. It is written and designed for all age groups within primary school, with beautiful illustrations, a wealth of tips and advice, and all sorts of interactive games and puzzles to reinforce the lessons learned,

PAWS offers simple common sense on how we can be safe around our waterways. English and Irish digital lesson books are available with interactive puzzles to match. The lessons take just an hour or two and are completely FREE. When each child has finished, these newfound skills make them a PAWS HERO.

Next month WSI will be launching our new programme for secondary schools called the Water Insight Safety Education or (WISE) which is an online course with practical elements for students to complete to further educate them in the life skill of water safety to ensure their own safety around aquatic environments and that of others.

By the time our children leave secondary school they should have sufficient water safety education to ensure their own safety on or near aquatic environments and have sufficient knowledge to how to rescue somebody in distress of drowning without putting their own life at risk. This will have a very significant impact on further reducing our

drowning level. Our Local Authorities have hundreds of aquatic sites, risk assessed by WSI to ensure that these bathing locations, piers, harbours, marinas and slipways are safe for the public to enjoy. Water safety signage and public rescue equipment is erected at these locations to warn the public of the hazards that may endanger their lives or that of their families and so that a member of the public can assist a person in distress of drowning with a ringbuoy and rope. This equipment saves lives virtually every month on our island nation, both at inshore and coastal locations. It is worth remembering that 6 out of 10 drownings occur at inland water sites, the remainder being at coastal areas.

Enjoy your aquatic pursuits or sports safely by always wearing a lifejacket on or near the water and use your influence to further reduce the number of drownings on our island nation.



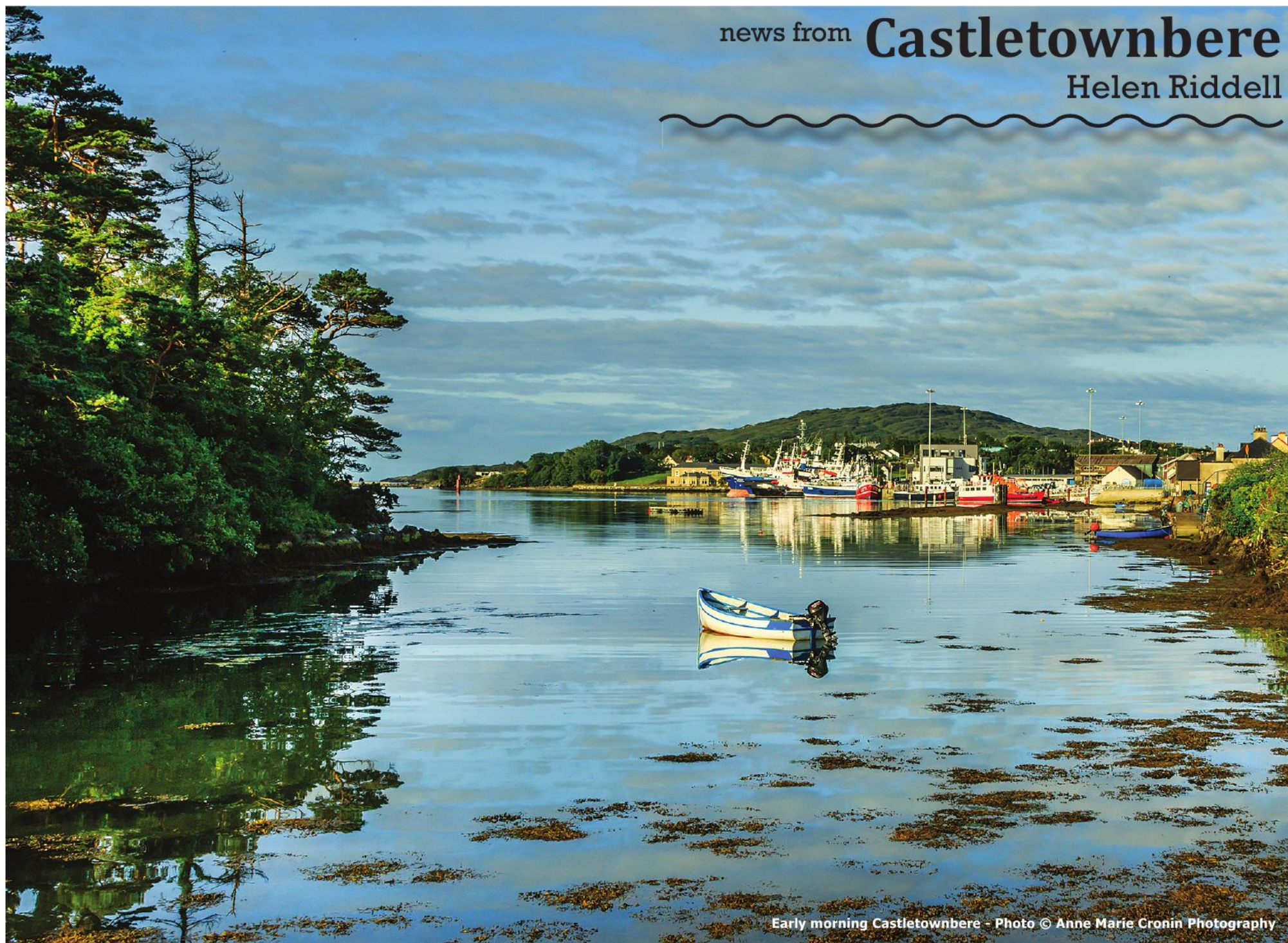
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news from **Castletownbere**

Helen Riddell



Early morning Castletownbere - Photo © Anne Marie Cronin Photography

Castletownbere Development Association

The Castletownbere Development Association have extended their thanks to all those who supported them over the past two years and helped in any way in the events that were able to take place. The group are now planning to resume a number of their regular events now that Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted and are inviting suggestions for ideas and projects and are also inviting members of the community to get involved. Anyone who would like to volunteer in a general way or for a specific event eg helping at bingo or summer festivals, is asked to contact the CDA through any of the directors or volunteers or via the group's Facebook page.

BIM Safety Training

A three day basic safety training course will take place at the National Fisheries College of Ireland, Castletownbere from 22nd-24th February, 8th-10th March and 29th-31st March. The three-day programme will include personal survival techniques, elementary first aid and fire prevention and safety awareness. On completion of the course participants will be issued with a BIM Basic Safety Training Card. The course is open to anyone aged over 16 years with a GP's certificate of fitness. For further details and to book a place contact 027 71230 or email della.osullivan@bim.ie

Tour de Beara

The 2022 Tour De Beara cycle race will take place on Saturday September 10th taking in the length and breadth of the Beara Peninsula. Cyclists will have the choice of three

routes, 85k, 120k or 160k. Tickets are now on sale for the event at www.tourdebeara.ie

Castletownbere RNLI

An online fundraising draw which was recently held by the Castletownbere RNLI lifeboat was won by Lynette Dewhurst. The prize was a framed limited edition print of Roancarrig Lighthouse which was donated by the artist Ian Strachan. The organisers extended their thanks to all those who supported the draw which raised €1209 for the lifeboat.

Castletownbere RNLI Lifeboat crew extended their sincere condolences to the Murphy and O'Driscoll families on the passing of Norma Murphy, Castletownbere. Norma was the mother of former crewmember, Lorraine Downey, and



Bere Island Ferries vessel 'Houton Lass' transporting stone for the new harbour breakwater in Castletownbere

was a great supporter of the Castletownbere lifeboat. May She Rest in Peace.

A Men's Group in CTB

The Beara West Family Resource Centre are hoping to start a men's group in Castletownbere. Anyone who has any suggestions as to what form this might take and what activities might be of interest is asked to share their ideas by contacting Claire Kelleher at 083 1599 748 or by email at ckelleher@bearawestfrc.ie

Beara Film Fest

Submissions can still be made to the 2022 Beara Film Fest. The festival is open to all directors who are living in or from Cork. Films must have been filmed from January 1st 2019 and must have been filmed in County Cork. They should be a maximum of 25 minutes in duration and in the English language, or subtitled if filmed in Irish or a European language. All films should be submitted in MP4 format via WeTransfer or Vimeo (download enabled) to bearafilmfest@gmail.com The closing date for all submissions is 5pm on February 25th.

Beara West Family Resource Centre

The Beara West Family Resource Centre provides information, advice and support to families, individuals and groups in the local community. The team at the centre work with several different agencies to support people to reach their goals or to resolve issues they may be experiencing and can also provide access to low-cost counselling through their links with a number of local counsellors and therapists. The centre can be contacted at 027 70998.

International Fishing and Maritime News

UK Tightens Up On 'Flagships'

The regulations which govern the economic links under which 'flagships' operate in UK waters have been a source of concern, controversy and criticism by fishermen and their representative organisations for a long time. These vessels, mainly owned in Spain and Holland land the majority of their catches in to their home countries. In October 2020, the UK Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) which deals with the fishing industry, opened a consultation process about these vessels.



Last month it announced that new arrangements will be applied to 'flagships'. This follows in the wake of Brexit and are aimed at tightening up controls on operators, but will only apply to English-registered 'flagship' vessels.

Complaints about the 'flagship' operations go back over a decade. The UK fishing industry had complained that 'flagships' were giving only minimal benefits to the UK economy while acquiring a big share of quota species such as plaice, sole and hake. They were also accused of preventing fishing opportunities to UK-owned vessels.

UK Courts held in favour of 'flagships' in a legal case in which it was adjudicated that they had been wrongfully denied access to UK quotas. That resulted in a stg£70m. compensation settlement with 'flagship' operators.

Under the devolution system between England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland it was agreed that the resulting four UK government administrations would apply identical economic links conditions on 'flagships'. DEFRA has stated that this will no longer be the case and devolved administrations will be allowed apply different policies. This will have reference to Northern Ireland where there are some Republic of Ireland boats registered that have obtained access to additional quotas, it is understood. There will also be implications in Wales where what are described as Anglo-Spanish boats are registered and in Scotland where foreign ownerships of demersal vessels are registered.

Clyde Fishing Ground Closure

Responding to the Scottish Government's announcement of the closure of Clyde fishing grounds, Elspeth MacDonald, Chief Executive of the SFF, said: "The announcement by Scottish Government will be devastating news for those who make their living fishing in the Clyde and have limited or no other options during the period of closure.

"SFF fully supports fishing sustainably, and clearly conservation measures taken to recover fish stocks are an important part of sustainable fisheries management. For several years we have been constructively engaged with Scottish Government on interactions between fisheries and marine conservation, and there are good examples where this approach has served all parties well and has driven the desired outcomes. While we may not always agree, we have always been able to have mature, rational discussion and there has been a clear and logical process that has been followed in reaching decisions.

"Scottish Government's botched handling of this specific issue has served only to undermine our trust in that process – no engagement since a short 'routine' consultation late last year, no subsequent discussion, no evidence presented to justify this course of action, and no warning of this change that will impact on many fishing businesses.

"Fishermen within the memberships of SFF's constituent associations will be less affected by this particular case than those who rely on the Clyde for their primary fishing grounds. We are however very con-

cerned by the Scottish Government's apparent willingness to disregard due process, undermine constructive relationships and make decisions affecting lives and livelihoods without presenting any evidence as to why this is either necessary or beneficial.

"We are very concerned that this decision by Scottish Government – a government now driven by its cooperation agreement with the Scottish Greens – sets a dangerous precedent for how they intend to approach fisheries management and marine conservation. The decision taken about the Clyde renders laughable any claims by the Scottish Government about them taking a co-management approach to fisheries management."

US Company Claims World's Biggest Offshore Farm

US-owned company Forever Oceans has announced an agreement with the government of Brazil to create what it has described as "the world's largest offshore fish farm."

The area where it will be located is the coastal state of Bahia in North East Brazil, covering 160,000 acres. Amberjack, a species common to that part of the world and said to be rich in Omega-3 will be farmed.

Norwegian Salmon Increases

Norwegian salmon exports have increased strongly during January, following a record-breaking year for sales in 2021 when they reached a total of €6.7 billion.

Scotland Environment CEO Resigns

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency has been allocated a wider role as lead regulator with responsibility for protecting wild salmon and overseeing the environmental impact of fish farming in Scotland.

However, its Chief Executive has left his position for reasons which have not been made public, though media reports have described them as "conduct allegations." Terry A'Hearn had been SEPA Chief Executive since 2015.

North Atlantic Pelagic Advocacy Group

The North Atlantic Pelagic Advocacy Group has published an open letter to politicians, calling for action on quota sharing and sustainable management at TAC allocation talks this month.

"As a collective of over 50 global businesses with a €800 million share of Northeast Atlantic pelagic seafood purchasing, the North Atlantic Pelagic Advocacy Group (NAPA) is directly invested in the responsible, science-driven management of Northeast Atlantic mackerel, Atlanto-Scandian herring, and Northeast Atlantic blue whiting. At the Coastal States meetings in October 2021, all parties agreed that total allowable catches for 2022 will be in line with the scientific advice for each stock. Worryingly, we have learned that some Coastal States have already set quotas for 2022 for some or all of these fisheries in advance of the sharing discussions. How does this lead to sustainable management?

Setting catch levels above the established scientific advice for these stocks, year on year, is an unacceptable threat to shared-stock fisheries. We want to underscore in the strongest terms that the current situation in the Northeast Atlantic is environmentally unsustainable."

China Produced Most Aquafeed

China produced 261.424 million tonnes of aquafeed last year, increasing its production by 8.9%, the biggest increase in the world. According to the annual Agri-Food Outlook published by Alltech, the animal nutrition group, aquafeed production worldwide increased by 3.7% during the year.



The Indonesian government plans to create 130 "aquaculture villages" to promote economic recovery. The Fisheries Ministry has established six and intends to add 130 more by the end of this year. "The villages will cultivate high-value aquaculture commodities, including shrimp, crab and seaweed, boosting national exports, creating employment and enhancing national food security." Indonesia has some of the world's largest shrimp farms. It is the third largest aquaculture producer in the world, behind China and India.

£65m for UK Ports Scheme and Electrification

£65m sterling is being made available for ports and harbours development in the UK. This is part of the overall £100m investment in the fishing industry announced by the British Government last year.

The ports and harbours to get the money will be identified in a "competition to identify the best projects, prioritising those which reduce carbon emissions to increase sustainability of the sector and contribute towards the UL's commitment to reach net zero by 2050," according to an announcement by DEFRA.

£10m is additionally to be spent on encouraging new entrants into the catching, processing and aquaculture sectors and on training and upskilling of existing fishing industry employees. All of this is part of the £100m UK Seafood Fund. It includes £25m allocated to new technology, a similar amount to fisheries science and innovation and £1m for promotion of UK seafood.

The UK Government statement about the Fund focused strongly on "ports electrification" to be developed to facilitate electric or hybrid vessels and solar power usage. "Transition of the UK seafood industry to more sustainable practices and a greater use of renewable sources will drive down energy costs, protect fish stocks in the future and improve sales, as well as building on the UK's reputation as a global leader in action to protect the environment," said DEFRA.

Graduation of Class of 2021 Higher Diploma in Business in Aquabusiness from Wexford Campus of Carlow Institute of Technology

The graduation for the fourth year of the Higher Diploma in Business in Aquabusiness took place on 12th January at the National Opera House in Wexford and was followed by a medal presentation event on Wexford Quay. It had been planned for last November but was deferred because of the pandemic. This was an improvement on the previous year when the graduation ceremony did not take place on account of public health grounds.

Five of the 11 graduates made it to Wexford for their day in the sun and four of these and their families walked the short distance to Wexford Quay for a photo shoot and presentation of the Brendan O'Kelly and Joey Murrin Memorial Medals to the two top performing graduates.

Valerie Moore received the Brendan O'Kelly Memorial Medal from Carol O'Kelly, daughter of the former Chairman and Chief Executive of BIM. Valerie hails from Donegal and is a nurse, currently working part-time, while also helping out the family oyster farming business with her husband Des Moore. The Moore's operate the Bells Isle farm in Co. Donegal and at several other coastal locations. Their rock oysters are sold widely under the Majestic Oyster brand.

Paraic Casey received the Joey Murrin Memorial Medal from John Power, marine author and former fisherman of Kilmore Quay, who knew Joey well. Paraic is from Carna in the Galway Gaeltacht and currently works in carpentry having earlier worked as a fisherman out of Rossaveal and Aran and also for a period out of Skerries. The last boat he worked on was the mfv Be Ready owned by Mike Sonny Flaherty of Fort Aongus, now deceased. Paraic is fond of the local regattas held in Connemara over the summer months and was accompanied by his girlfriend Máire Ni Einniú, of Udarás

na Gaeltachta, who is a big supporter of the course.

Kim Dempsey who is daughter of well-known Arklow fisherman, Danny Dempsey attended along with her partner Eamon Doyle and their children. Kim's sister Kate Dempsey was also present on Wexford Quay having been presented with her law degree from Carlow IT. Kate was one of the first graduates of the HDip (class of 2018) and has been a trail-blazer in the marine field since then, achieving BIM student of the year and founding the Irish Mussel Seed Company and Aqualicense Ltd in County Wicklow.

Marine Biologist William Hurley from County Cork was also present with his family group. William studied at NUIG and works with Mowi at its salmon farming operation in Donegal. Mowi, based in Norway, is a world leader in fish farming and William is the fourth graduate of the company to complete the HDip so far.

The fourth year of the one year course was online and attracted bigger numbers on account of this from around the coast, with 15 registering. In addition to the 11 awarded the HDip, three others received one or more Certificates for the modules completed. One of the latter was from inside the Arctic Circle in northern Norway. The other HDip graduates are Thomas Russell (Kildare), Carleena Barlow (Waterford), Jennifer



Carol O'Kelly (Redstorm Marketing) daughter of Brendan O'Kelly presents the Brendan O'Kelly Memorial Medal to Valerie Moore from County Donegal; Amy Allen (Clongeen), Course Director for HDip Aquabusiness at Wexford Campus; Paraic Casey from Carna, Co Galway receives the Joey Murrin Memorial Medal from John Power of Olinda Publications, Kilmore Quay. (See group photo on page 13)

Boyle (Kerry), Michael Conroy (Galway), Sinead Joyce (Galway) and Leanne and Martin Oliver, both from Galway.

A name change for the HDip to "Higher Diploma in Business in Fisheries and Aquaculture" has been adopted for the fifth year. The term 'aquabusiness' was taken by many to mean aquaculture. Of the ten students who registered for the fifth cycle of the course, which is continuing online, three are based in mainland Europe. The merger of Carlow and Waterford ITs got approval last year and the new south east university is to be established in May 2022. The fifth year group will be among the first graduates of the new university. For under-graduate level courses, school leavers pondering their CAO choices in January had eight options to consider to study agriculture at third level in Ireland but none for fisheries. The HDip is a post-grad course and the only one dealing with fisheries and aquaculture in

Ireland apart from courses in marine biology, which can touch on the sector. Carlow IT, with the support of BIM, is continuing to break new ground in supporting business education for the fisheries sector which supports economic activity around the coast of Ireland including the offshore islands year in year out.

In its report 'The Business of Seafood 2020' BIM reported the estimated GDP of the Irish Seafood Industry to be €1.09 billion with 2030 registered fishing vessels and 309 aquaculture production units in 2019. It reported that 16,430 were employed around the coast in the sector; both direct and indirect employment. Since then the pandemic has affected the sector through market disruption and there will be significant loss of access to UK waters in future years on account of the post-BREXIT 'TAC Agreement' between the EU and UK of December 2020.

MFV Father McKee fishing with the Dutch registered 'Willem van der Zwan' in the background measuring in at 142.5m in length - Photo courtesy John Cunningham



Family Connections in the RNLI



Niamh Stephenson, Media Manager for the RNLI reflects on the family connections in the RNLI around the coast



As I have written before, family connections are strong in the RNLI.

We have a brother and sister who volunteer with Valentia RNLI. Dominic and Cornelia Lyne. They grew up in a house where the RNLI lifeboat pager going off was a familiar sound and are the children of former volunteer lifeboat crewmember Nealie Lyne, who after 25 years saving lives at sea, is now a Deputy Launching Authority at the station.

And we have a father and daughter lifesaving team at Howth RNLI. Stephen Harris has been a Deputy Launching Authority at the station since 2014 while his daughter Jen joined a month before the first

lockdown. Having returned from 6 months studying abroad in New Zealand Jen joined the lifeboat crew in February 2020 and Stephen was former lifeboat crew in Dun Laoghaire.

In Newcastle RNLI we have two brothers whose great-grandfather was awarded a bronze medal for gallantry in 1942. Ciaran and Lochlainn Leneghan are fourth generation lifeboat crew and they follow in the footsteps of their late great grandfather William James who served as a crew member, their grandfather Mickey who was a Coxswain and their father Kevin who was also part of the crew. It was during William James' time on the crew, that he was awarded a bronze medal for gallantry for his part in the rescue of 39 people from the Brown-

ing, one of seven ships of a convoy, that ran ashore in a south-easterly gale with very heavy sleet and rain on 21 January 1942.

The grandson of a distinguished Donegal Coxswain who was awarded the RNLI's gold medal for gallantry for his role in the rescue of 18 crew on a Dutch steamer in 1940 returned home from Boston to become the third generation in his family to join Arranmore Island's lifesaving crew. Mark Boyle was born and raised on Arranmore and follows in the footsteps of his late father Charlie, a former station mechanic spanning three decades, and his grandfather Jack, who was awarded the charity's gold medal for gallantry.

James Kitt, joined the West Cork lifeboat station after relocating to Baltimore with his Irish girlfriend Emma. James was previously RNLI lifeboat crew at Chiswick, on the Thames in London, one of the busiest of the charity's lifeboat stations.

While these crew have a family connection and history in the RNLI, there are more who found their way onto the lifeboat crew with no former connections to the Institution and no maritime background. Each volunteer is trained the same, wearing the same kit and the same pager.

Sad Loss in Portrush

When one of the family is lost it is sad for all of us. The New Year brought sad news for the RNLI family with the death announced of the former Coxswain at Portrush RNLI 'Big' Willie McAuley. While Willie was on crew, he took part in many memorable rescues. He was involved in the rescue of two teenage boys who became trapped in a cave at Castlerock in 2009 which saw the crew honoured by the RNLI for the service.



Robin Cardwell former Lifeboat Operations Manager with Portrush RNLI and the late Willie McAuley, former Coxswain.

As the station paid tribute to him, they remembered their former Coxswain as larger than life and a friend and mentor to new crew members. I remember him being a quiet man but as with many people of his standing, when he spoke it was something worth listening to and taking notice of whatever he was saying. Everyone in the RNLI offers their condolences to his partner Sara, daughter Lorna and son-in-law Johnny, who is also a Coxswain at the station, his brother Paul and sister-in-law Elizabeth. To all at Portrush RNLI he was the 'Big man', but he was also a gentleman.

Fundraising Appeal Was Well Supported

The RNLI's Christmas fundraising appeal was well supported and if you donated, thank you so much.

To support the appeal, we try and share stories from stations with their local communities, that give a glimpse into the kind of people who volunteer for the RNLI and to show where funds raised go to and what they fund; the training, the kit and all the things that keep lifeboats afloat. Thank you to all the RNLI volunteers who shared their stories. There were so many. If you'd like to read more on them from lifeboat stations around the country, they are available on the news centre on the RNLI's website RNLI.org

Open Water Swimming Care

The increasing popularity of sea swimming shows no signs of abating and it's wonderful to see people discovering this incredible amenity on our doorstep. However, last winter RNLI lifeboat crews saved the lives of five swimmers and helped a further 12 back to safety. So our Water Safety Manager Kevin Rahill has warned that for many, this is their first experience of the sea in the colder winter months, so they need to be aware of risks before they enter the water, know how to keep themselves and others safe, and to Respect the Water.

Anyone taking part in open water swims and dips needs to be aware of the risks. Cold water shock is a real danger for anyone entering water that is 15°C or below while swim failure and hypothermia can also pose a risk, especially at this time of year when the average sea temperature around Ireland is just 6 to 10°C.

The RNLI's tips include avoiding swimming alone, consider going with others or joining a group so you can look out for each other. Think about the depth of water and if you can, stay in your depth. Taking the right kit is essential, wear a wetsuit to keep warm and increase buoyancy, together with a bright swim cap and tow float to make yourself visible to others and use in an emergency.

The most important thing to remember is if you are in any doubt, stay out of the water and if you or anyone else does get into trouble in or on the water please call 999 or 112 and ask for the Coast Guard.

Here's to a safe 2022, whether you're fishing, dipping, swimming, sailing, paddleboarding or any other water-based activity, thank you for the continued support.

Grieving families mark first year since devastating Nicola Faith loss by vowing to help RNLI prevent further commercial fishing tragedies - page 21



(Above): Pictured are Newcastle RNLI crew members Declan McClelland, brothers Ciaran and Lochlainn Leneghan and Shannon Gilman.

(Below): Cornelia and Dominic grew up in a house where the RNLI lifeboat pager going off was a familiar sound. The brother and sister are the children of former volunteer lifeboat crewmember Nealie Lyne, who after 25 years saving lives at sea, is now a Deputy Launching Authority at the station.



Tommy Tops One Thousand Euro in aid of Kilmore Quay RNLI

11-year-old Tommy Kehoe was one of approximately sixty swimmers who completed the fundraising challenge, *20 Dips in December*, on the Little Beach in Kilmore Quay on New Years Eve in aid of Kilmore Quay RNLI.

Organized by three local ladies, Melinda Kehoe, Grainne O'Brien and Simmi Duffin, *20 Dips in December*, saw local swimmers take part in, not one, but twenty sponsored swims in the sea during the month of December. The weather and sea conditions throughout the month were a key consideration for the swimmers. Even though there were some days where conditions did not allow for a dip, there were enough favourable days to allow for the challenge to be completed safely by the hardy swimmers. Not least of all by Melinda's son Tommy who even fitted in a dip in the morning before school.

Tommy alone has so far raised €1,140. A brilliant achievement for this young man. Overall, it is estimated that almost €5000 has been raised by participants. Donations can still be made on the *Just Giving* page at: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rnli-kilmore-quay-decemberdips

The organizers commented after the final swim: 'This has been my favourite ever challenge and I'm so pleased we managed to raise money for such a great fund.'

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, fundraising in aid of Kilmore Quay lifeboat has taken place throughout the year as COVID guidelines allowed. Dedicated supporters of the RNLI in the area have organised walks, swims, cycles, vintage runs, online bingo, and head shaves among other activities, raising vital funds to maintain the charity's lifesaving services.

Speaking following the swim, Kilmore Quay RNLI Lifeboat Operations Manager John Grace, said: 'There is a fantastic community spirit here today. Tommy has raised an incredible sum of money, as have all the participants. We cannot thank everyone who took part and all who support Kilmore Quay RNLI throughout the year enough for all their efforts and generosity.'

Those taking part in the *20 Dips in December* challenge swim regularly in the sea throughout the year. If you are considering doing so, please check out the safety tips on Swim Ireland's website regarding winter swimming in Ireland. www.swimireland.ie/news/winter-dipping-safety-in-ireland or contact a local open water swimming group.

Firsts for 2022 at Helvick Head and Wicklow

On their first call out of the year Helvick Head RNLI came to the aid of two fishermen on Wednesday 12th January after their 29ft fishing boat broke down at Ballyvoyle.

On what was described as a sunny and calm day on the water, the volunteer crew were requested to launch their inshore lifeboat by the Irish Coast Guard at 12.50pm following a report that the vessel needed assistance at Ballyvoyle, close to Clonea beach.

Launching at 1.03pm, the lifeboat helmed by Joe Foley and with crew members Alan Kelly, Shane Walsh and Liam Harty onboard, made its way to the scene arriving at 1.12pm.

The lifeboat crew assessed the situation and found the fishermen to be safe and well. As the boat had sustained engine failure, a decision was made to tow the vessel back to Helvick Head Pier where they arrived at 1.50pm.

Speaking following the call out, Sean Walsh, Helvick Head RNLI Deputy Launching Authority said: 'The casualties did the right thing by calling for help when they realised they were in difficulty.'

'We would remind anyone planning a trip to sea to always go prepared. Always wear a lifejacket and always carry a means of communication. Should you get into trouble or see someone else in difficulty, dial 999 or 112 and ask for the Coast Guard.'

Wicklow RNLI Inshore lifeboat was launched at 10:30am on Sunday 16th January after a concerned member of

the public contacted the Coast Guard to report a lone kayaker in difficulties south of Wicklow harbour.

The Inshore lifeboat crew proceeded south towards Wicklow Head and begun an immediate search of the area. Weather conditions at the scene were sea state moderate with wind north easterly force four with good visibility. At 10:55am the crew located a kayaker about two miles off the Silver Strand beach. He was not in any difficulty and required no further assistance.

Speaking after his first callout as a Helm, Paul Sillery said: 'We were alongside the kayaker just before 11am and carried out a quick assessment. The kayak was well kitted out with safety equipment including a marine VHF radio. The man said he was on a training exercise and did not require any assistance, so we contacted the Coast Guard to say he was ok and wished to continue his passage south.'

The lifeboat crew were stood down and returned to station.

While the kayaker was well equipped for the journey it is essential to carry a communications device, such as a VHF radio, Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) or a mobile phone every time you go out on the water. Carry it on your person and in a waterproof pouch on a lanyard, so you can't drop it if your hands get cold. Always tell someone where you are going and when you will return.



(Above): 11-year-old Tommy Kehoe was one of approximately sixty swimmers who completed the fundraising challenge, *20 Dips in December*, on the Little Beach in Kilmore Quay on New Years Eve (31 December) in aid of Kilmore Quay RNLI.

(Below): Helvick Head RNLI



12 Swims of Christmas Raise €9,150 for Fethard RNLI



Fethard RNLI are hugely grateful to a group of local winter swimmers who each braved the elements completing 12 Swims of Christmas during December, at Baginbun Beach, raising an amazing €9,150.

Set up by local artist Helen Mason, this safety conscious swimming group who prefer to swim in numbers, grew from single figures to almost 70. In an effort to stay motivated this December, as the sea temperatures dropped, the group set themselves a goal of 12 swims, and a fundraising target for Fethard RNLI. Speaking at the presentation, Helen said; 'To help stay focused, we decided to turn the month of December into a fundraiser for our local RNLI in recognition of the time and dedication given by our local RNLI volunteers. We enjoyed every minute of it, and how we laughed and joked!'

Helen, the swimmers, and their families, presented the cheque to volunteer Lifeboat fundraising committee member Sarah Bates and Fethard RNLI chairperson Tony Molloy at Fethard RNLI boathouse. Commenting on this amazing amount raised, Tony said, 'It is dedicated fundraisers like Helen and the swimmers that help keep RNLI stations going. As a charity we depend on these generous acts of fundraising to run our station, train our crew, and update our lifesaving equipment. Thanks to everyone who got involved in the swims and all who logged on to the charity page and made their donation. It is because of everyone involved; we get to save lives at sea.'

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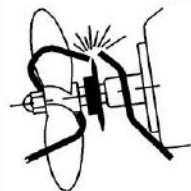
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Frankie Veldman founder of Errigal Training Centre

So what is it that makes Errigal Training Centre different?

“As well as providing a one-stop shop for health and safety training, our location and service offering is unique. We want to welcome people in through our doors, treat them like VIPs and make sure they come back. Simple really!” explains Frankie.

Frankie is a born and bred Letterkenenny man and has taken the scenic route to Falcarragh. Working a lot in the North Sea, he has also spent time in Norway, Myanmar and the Middle East, largely in the energy (oil and gas) sector. Early on in his career he moved into the area of Health and Safety, something Frankie is very passionate about. Looking around the facility in Falcarragh, his passion is evident in every

aspect of the building, from the entrance to the training pool.

Some might question why one would choose a location perceived as remote, to set-up. However Frankie and his wife Noreen saw their location as another unique selling point. Noreen is a native of Dungloe and works in Finance & Compliance whilst supporting Frankie’s vision in her spare time.

“Being based in the heart of the Donegal Gaeltacht area is ideal for us, close to the coast and within easy travel distance for a lot of our customers. Local amenities are very important. When people come for a week they can avail of the many activities available locally such as surfing, beach walks, hiking and golfing. Not having to

fight your way through traffic or spend hours in traffic jams makes our location attractive and of course being 30 minutes from Donegal Airport is very convenient for our delegates,” outlines Frankie.

The idea of a training facility indirectly becoming a tourist attraction may appear unlikely, however Frankie explains that people travel from all over Ireland and beyond to train here.

“The one comment that staff continuously receive is how beautiful and scenic it is here. We had a Frenchman attend a course during the summer who has lived in Galway for 18 years and previously never been to Donegal. After an evening hike on Errigal he immediately made plans for his family to have a Donegal staycation next Summer.”

Errigal Training Centre was set-up in February 2020 just before Covid-19 hit. This certainly proved to be a challenge in the short-term, with no income as training couldn’t be held virtually. However the pandemic also gave Frankie and his wife Noreen a chance to get the building kitted out to the exact specification it needed to be.

“It also helped us to be clear in our future focus, we want to have a lot more accreditations and ultimately be a ‘One Stop Shop’ for the Renewables, Marine and Oil & Gas Sectors.”

Errigal Training Centre has three full time staff, and a pool of experienced con-

tractors who work closely with them. All instructors are highly experienced in their fields and they have also been recruited locally which was a ‘pleasant surprise’ for Frankie to have so much experience avail-

able in Donegal. While the centre attracts custom from far and wide, the local market in Donegal and nearby Northern Ireland is particularly important.

“In the past most of the young people from around here would have travelled to Scotland or further afield to complete their training. Now they can train in Donegal before potentially travelling abroad to develop their skills further.”



The safety pool at Errigal Training Centre

Frankie is very aware of the rapidly evolving focus of global energy. Unsurprisingly with such a focus on climate change and clean energy, the demand is very high for training support in this area.

“The establishment of offshore wind farms is going to be a major growth area for Ireland over the next decade and we are perfectly positioned to be part of and support this growing industry. We will continue to develop our capabilities so that we can provide the opportunity for an exciting and rewarding career path to anyone who visits Errigal Training Centre.”

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Simply Blue Group Opens Dublin Office and Expands Team

Simply Blue Group, a leading blue economy developer in floating offshore wind, wave energy and low-impact aquaculture has expanded its team and opened a new office in Dublin. The new office in Dublin at 43 Fitzwilliam Square will cater for the recent growth in staffing levels which has seen the company recruiting professional expertise in engineering, project management, finance, and communications.

Headquartered in Cork, Ireland, Simply Blue Group has a pipeline of over 9 GW of floating offshore wind projects, primarily in the waters off Ireland and the British Isles. The recent team expansion highlights an increase in project activity as momentum builds in the Irish and global renewable energy sector.



Des Chavasse, who has been appointed as Chief Operations Officer, is a senior operational leader. He has spent much of his career with Population Services International (PSI), a Washington DC based social marketing organisation delivering health solutions in 55 countries.

Others attracted to join the rapidly growing renewables industry and this growing Irish company include: Michael Galvin, a chemical engineer with over 16 years' experience in the energy industry; Adrian deAndres, a recognized expert in floating offshore wind renewables who joins Simply Blue from Xodus; Sara MacKeown, a media professional with extensive experience in marine infrastructure projects having spent 15 years with the Port of Cork; and Graham Stewart, an experienced oil and gas engineer who is now applying his skills to the energy transition.

Meanwhile, in October 2021, Simply Blue Group announced its expansion into the US with the launch of a new partnership with TotalEnergies called TotalEnergies SBE US. It aims to deliver gigawatts (GW) of clean, climate-friendly power to millions of American electricity consumers. Amongst the more recent joiners is Peter Cogswell, Director of Government and External Affairs, West Coast and a former Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Policy Advisor on Energy and Telecommunications for Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski.

Commenting on the appointments which brings the Simply Blue team to almost 60 people, Sam Roch Perks, Co-Founder & CEO said "The interest in the Offshore renewables sector and the potential we can unlock in Ireland and elsewhere is truly exciting. We are humbled to be able to attract such passionate people as we grow internationally".

Angel Guardians

Angel Sharks (*Squatina squatina*) tagged and /or released in Irish waters

Declan Quigley reports

On 16 November 2021, the *MFV 'Eblana'* (D379) [Skipper: Brendan Lynch, Howth] tagged and released a mature male Angel Shark (*Squatina squatina*) measuring 112 cm total length (TL), 62 cm disc width (DW) and weighing 11.5 kg, while demersal trawling at a depth of 110 m, in the Central Irish Sea (ICES VIIa; 35E4; 53.1503°N, 5.3336°W) off Co Wicklow (Figs. 1-3). Since 2011, the *Eblana* has tagged and released a total of six Angel Sharks in the Central Irish Sea.



Figure 1. Angel Shark (*Squatina squatina*) tagged and released by the *MFV Eblana* in the Central Irish Sea off Wicklow (16.11.2021) [dorsal view]

Figure 2. Mature male Angel Shark (*Squatina squatina*) tagged and released by the *MFV Eblana* [ventral view]



On 29 November 2021, the *MFV Realt na Mara* (C175) [Skipper: Michael Hennessy, Dingle] captured and released a female Angel Shark measuring 130 cm TL while gill-netting for Pollack (*Pollachius pollachius*) off Sleat Head, (ICES VIIj; 33D5; 52.0964°N, 10.4592°W), Co Kerry.

Although there are relatively few records of Angel Sharks from the ROI side of the Irish Sea, the species was

previously reported as relatively common on the UK side up until the last century, particularly off the Isle of Man, Cumbria, Lancashire, Cheshire, and southwards along the Welsh coast where its current status is actively being investigated under the *Wales Angel Shark Action Plan*.

During 1871, Mary Francis Cusack noted in her *History of the Kingdom of Kerry* that Angel Sharks were frequent on the west but scarce on the east coast of Ireland. Between 1958 and 2002, a total of 139 specimens weighing >22.68 kg were recorded by recreational anglers, particularly from Tralee Bay, Co Kerry (99) and Clew Bay, Co Mayo (32).

Between 1970 and 2011 a total of 1019 Angel Sharks were tagged and released (mainly by anglers) in Irish waters (92% in Tralee Bay). Although the recapture rates were historically relatively high (c.20%), the number of fish tagged declined sharply during the late 1980s, and none have been recaptured since 2004. Indeed, since 2006, only six fish have been tagged, all by the *MFV Eblana* in the Irish Sea.

More recently, on 13 April 2021 the *MFV Trinity* (SO729) [Skipper: Declan O'Sullivan, Portmagee] captured and released an Angel Shark measuring c. 90 cm TL and weighing c.7.5 kg while trawling at a depth of 110 m, 11.2 km south of the Skellig Islands, Co Kerry. Declan remarked that this was the first Angel Shark that he had captured over the last 25 years.

Although Angel Sharks were historically described as widespread and 'common' in European seas, the species is now regarded as *Critically Endangered* by the *International Union for Conservation of Nature* (IUCN), and is designated as a 'prohibited species' under *European Union Regulation No. 2019/1241*, which states, inter alia, "When caught accidentally, the species shall not be harmed and specimens shall be promptly released back into the sea, except for the purpose of allowing scientific research on accidentally killed specimens". All captures are required to be logged.



Figure 3. Angel Shark tagged and released by the *MFV Eblana* (Tag No. 47452) [16.11.2021]

Commercial fishers and recreational anglers have a very important role to play in contributing to the conservation of the Angel Shark in Irish waters. Apart from releasing incidental captures unharmed, and where possible contributing to the tagging effort, they can help fill the current knowledge gaps about the species distribution and abundance by logging all discards. In the absence of reliable up-to-date information, the species will undoubtedly continue to be regarded as threatened.

Declan is always interested in receiving reports about unusual specimens and rarely recorded species captured in Irish waters (WhatsApp: 087-6458485; Email: declanquigley2021@gmail.com)



MFV Róise Catriona arriving into Castletownbere after first trip of the year - Photo courtesy Catherine Turner

BIM Returns as Main Sponsor to Irish Skipper Expo 2022

Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM), Ireland's Seafood Development Agency, is returning as headline sponsor to the Irish Skipper Expo this year. The trade show event is taking place at the University of Limerick Sport Arena on March 25 and 26.

BIM staff will be on hand to provide information about key supports and services available for industry, including grant opportunities and practical guidance on how to access them.

Live demonstrations of the digitised version of the fisheries management chart will be given at the BIM stand. The chart, formerly available in print version only, features key regulations about quota and technical conservation measures, updated in real-time.

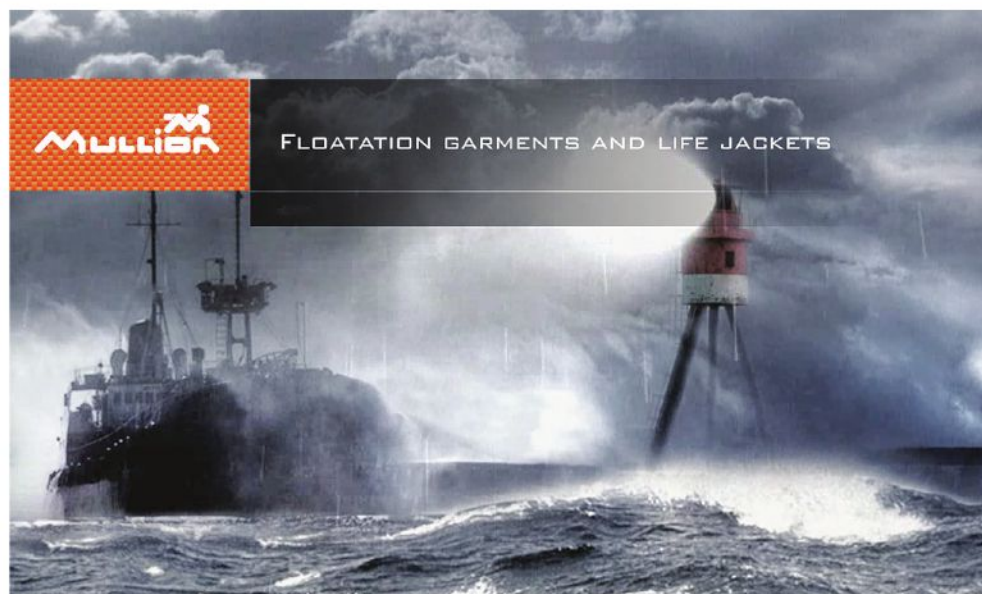
A model display of selective gear will be suspended over the BIM stand while underwater footage taken during recent gear trials

with members of the Irish fishing industry plays on screens.

BIM's Coastal Training Unit will also be on site delivering safety training demonstrations to visitors and helping to raise awareness of the training available to fishers at its two National Fisheries Colleges.

BIM's participation at this year's event is supported by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.

To attend the Irish Skipper Expo at the University of Limerick Sport Arena on March 25th and 26th register online at www.skipper.ie



Designed for and by fishermen

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