

MARINE TIMES

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Fiona Yvonne pictured off the Hook - Photo Susan Rowe

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**Does the Irish Government
Want the Irish Fishing
Industry to Continue to
Exist or Does It Not?**

**The Government Must
Answer This Question**

*The public has not been told the full story
about the scandalous way the Government
has treated the fishing industry - page 13*

**Widespread Anger Against Government,
Taoiseach and Minister Over Penalty Points**

**"Looks like we have another Minister
who will be led by his officials" - Page 9**

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Marine and Coastal Communities**

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by Art Kavanagh

Work Is Hard!

Lads – during the past month I had a message from a successful young owner asking me to find a buyer for his Vessel and Capacity because he cannot get crew to work regularly. This has been a problem for years but I think it is becoming worse as time passes.

So many people have made such good livings from fishing over the years it is hard to understand why so few young people are attracted to it now.

People have suggested that it is “Hard Work”. Of course it is - **WORK IS HARD** - that’s how it is!!

I have been banging the Recruitment Drum for years and I hope to keep Banging it until I run out of energy.

We all know the amount of paper-work involved in employing the foreign crews who in fairness to them have been the saviour of the industry for years and

without whom many vessels could not have functioned.

By my best calculation up to 75 % of all the earnings for the crews on the Polyvalent Fleet are paid to Non Irish Crewmen who totally deserve it - BUT- these are Irish vessels, fishing Irish quotas so why are we allowing so much of the benefits or potential benefits to the State to be exported.

We have had certain politicians doing handstands over the fact that the state earns so little from projects like the Corrib Gas Field but do they not realise that by allowing so much of the earning power of the fishing fleet to effectively go abroad - we

are doing exactly the same thing.

It is hard to believe that our good friend Martin Howley left us 5 years ago and his loss is still felt in the industry. Martin often told me that his family had no significant involvement in the fishing industry and that it was the visit to his school of the BIM people which prompted him to explore the possibilities which life as a fisherman offered.

I think that Martin believed a theory of George Bernard Shaw “**You see things ; and you say “Why” but I dream things that never were; and I say, “Why Not”.**

That is the kind of vision and ambition which causes a business to grow.

I believe that young people are not being offered the opportunity to learn about the fishing industry and the opportunities it presents and I have been canvassing owners and BIM to at least on a trial basis to have a stand at the industry exhibitions and at the annual agricultural job opportunities fair to explain the industry to school leavers.

I believe we are losing opportunity here lads - but sadly opportunity is an undervalued talent in Ireland as our regulators on the basis of following EU Rules (Which few others in the same EU are taking any notice of) place every obstacle they can conjure up in the development of many industries.

I think they pay just a little more attention to Fishing.

Could we not have for once a situation where an announcement or Statutory Instrument from our Department might be greeted with applause rather than groans of despair.

The Penalty Points have been resurrected again. It is clearly defined in EU Law that we need to have them but can there not be some element of natural Justice involved whereby if found to be innocent the penalty need not apply ??

As a senior official of the Department said to me many years ago – “you can always challenge this in Court - but remember the Attorney General works for nothing for us”.

Now there’s a threat lads.

In 2005 I appeared as a witness at a sitting of the Dail Joint Committee of the Department as it was at the time Communi-

cations, Natural Resources and the Marine. They were discussing the proposed Fisheries Amendment Act which criminalised certain Fishing Offences.

Before attending that session I read over the Preliminary Paper- can’t remember if it was “White” or “Green” but it was certainly scary because it suggested that failure by an Irish Fishing Vessel to stop when challenged by the Navy – they (The Navy) were to be allowed to “Fire at or into the Vessel”.

That phrase was of course removed from the Bill which was passed – despite assurances by the then FF Minister that it would be withdrawn – but my point was and would still be that some Official of the Department thought it appropriate to include the phrase in the first instance and that some more senior Official I am sure had to pass it before it was published.

So that’s what they thought of you lads - could we call this a “Shoot to Kill” Policy.

I suppose it good to know where we stand?????

If we are interested in maintaining an indigenous Industry can we be serious about it and maybe encourage it.

If we are not interested – do the honest thing and ADMIT IT.

I suspect that we have officials playing a blinder in the Brexit Discussions and I know they do at the quota talks every December.

Why destroy all of this good work by constantly niggling at the industry with new regulations and creation of barriers to efficient operation.

What a waste of opportunity.

There are two quotations which spring to my mind as I write here:

Oscar Wilde said “There is only one thing in the world worse than being talked about- That is not being talked about”

Dale Carnegie said “Instead of worrying about what people say of you, why not spend time trying to accomplish something they will admire”

That despite the best efforts of the begrudgers who are a growing breed in our Country - God help us all

Stay safe everyone



MFV Rath Eilte entering Balbriggan - Photo by Richard Guildea

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Jack Lawler's 'Our Rose' off Balbriggan - Photo by Richard Guildea

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Limited Markets Keep Prices Low for Shrimps

Good numbers of shrimps have been coming up in pots since the season opened on the 1st of August and what should have been a good shrimp season, has turned out to be another dismal one for those involved in this inshore fishery.



Good numbers of shrimps showing up on the North West coast; Shooting shrimp pots.



Although prices were initially strong in the opening week, the lack of demand for shellfish in restaurants across France and the rest of Europe, caused by consumer fears over the Corona Virus pandemic has meant that prices are down to a point where some fishermen are being asked by their buyers to limit the amount of gear they are working in a bid to stave off a complete collapse of the limited markets available.

The shrimp fishery is the third most important shellfish fishery in Irish inshore waters after brown crab and lobster. For the last few years, the shrimp fishery has at best been average, many of those involved in the fishery had taken their gear ashore after the first few weeks as the shrimps failed to show and catches remained low.

2020 has been a very challenging year

for inshore fishermen in every sector due to the pandemic and the shrimp fishery is no exception, although good numbers of shrimps are showing up on the fishing grounds, there is no demand for them on the continent, leaving fishermen with very few options other than restricting the weight of shrimps being landed.

Irish Shrimp fishermen catch between 200 and 400 tonnes of shrimps annually and the average price for them is around €14 per kg.

One shrimp fisherman told Marine Times, "This year has been nothing short of a disaster for inshore fishermen, brown crab catches are poor and prices are on the floor, the lobster fishery is the same.

"We were hoping that the impact of the

pandemic would have passed before we got to August and the start of the shrimp fishery, but this has not happened and with the current low prices being paid for brown crab, lobster and now shrimps, markets are as good as closed for fishermen when it comes to Irish shellfish."

The shrimp fishery is well managed, the season starts at the beginning of August and continues until November. On the North-west coast fishermen stop fishing once berried shrimps start to show up in the catch, this protects the females and allows them to spawn for the following seasons.

Shrimps are a short-lived species, with a lifespan of approximately two years. Growth is rapid with females increasing their weight by 50% between the months of August and September in their second year. Males grow at a slower rate and achieve a

smaller overall size. Females begin to carry eggs in October and November and by December the majority are usually berried.

Fishermen are also protecting their fishery by voluntarily introducing measures such as a minimum landing size; small shrimps are graded out of the catch, allowing the juveniles to grow for a second season.

Similarly, legislation passed in 2015 ensures the long-term viability of the shrimp fishery, a closed season was introduced that begins on the 15th March until the 1st of August so that the fishery is closed during the spawning period.

The bulk of Irish shrimp landings are destined for markets on the continent, mainly France and Spain.

Aquaculture Workshop Moves Online

The BIM aquaculture workshop being run by aquaculture accelerator Hatch, and funded under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund is taking place next month. This year's event will be held entirely online. The original plan had been to host it in the RDI Hub in Killorglin, Co Kerry.

Fifteen participants from 10 Irish-based companies have been selected and will have access to investors, fin-tech and other specialists over the duration of the workshop.

This is the third such aquaculture workshop to take place since 2018. It is hoped that companies participating will in time

provide products and services to Ireland's aquaculture sector leading to greater efficiencies and profitability.

Participant companies cover areas as diverse as sea lice treatment, aeration technology and blockchain analysis.

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Irish South and West Fish Producers Decide to Take Legal Action Against Government Over Penalty Points

“This is an attack on everything we as a society hold dear, on our Independence and on our Sovereignty that tears up our Constitution.”

The Irish South and West Fish Producers' Organisation decided at their annual general meeting to challenge the Constitutionality of the new Statutory Instrument Penalty Points system.

The decision was taken, it says, by “unanimous agreement of the membership present at the AGM held in the Maritime Hotel, Bantry, on Saturday, September 19. It was decided to challenge the Constitutionality of S.I. No 318/2020 CFP (Penalty Points System) Regulations 2020.

“The System of Administrative Sanctions is completely alien to our Irish system of Constitutional and Common Law.”

The FPO issued a detailed statement which said: “We, as Fishermen and Fishermen, citizens of the Irish Republic believe our Constitution was fought for and won by the sacrifices made by brave men and women through their struggles from 1916 to 1922 with the Irish Proclamation or the Easter Proclamation issued by the Irish Volunteers and Irish Citizen Army during the Easter Rising in Dublin which began on April 24, 1916.

“A Court finds me Innocent, the SI finds me guilty” is something we will not accept

for if the people allow this injustice it is disrespecting those who were executed, those who died fighting and the families who lost their loved ones in our fight for Independence.

“This is not just an attack on fishermen and women! This is an attack on everything we as a society hold dear, on our Independence and on our Sovereignty that tears up our Constitution.”

The Irish South and West issued an analysis of disputed aspects of the SI with their comments:

Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union

Even under the European Charter of Fundamental Rights that form part of the Treaties of the European Union the Articles below do not comply with what we believe to be Taoiseach Michael Martin's unconstitutional law.

The European Union clearly states that it

is necessary to strengthen the protection of fundamental rights in the light of changes in society, social progress and scientific and technological developments by making those rights more visible in a Charter.

It is an objective of the Treaties of the EU that a fisherman's standard of living should be improved.

Under Article 48 of the Charter there is a presumption of Innocence and Right of Defence:

Article 48 (1) everyone who has been charged shall be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to Law.

Contrary to the EU Charter, here are just a sample of what is now being forced upon our “hard-pressed” fishing community.

- Section; 6(9) where the burden of proof is less than that required in a prosecution with the test for evidence being ‘on the balance of probabilities’ rather than “beyond a reasonable doubt.”
- Section; 8(1), where points remain on a licence even in the event of an appellant being exonerated of any offence.
- Section; 10(2), where points attached to capacity multiply in the event of that capacity being subdivided.
- Section; 12(14), where a party may only apply to the High Court on a point of law and not against findings of fact made “on the balance of probabilities”

• **SI:** The Sea-Fisheries Protection Agency (SFPA) has been appointed by the Government as the competent Authority to assign penalty point and a ‘Determination Panel’ made up of Attorney General. Nominees from the legal profession will be chosen by the SFPA for the purpose of determining whether a serious infringement has occurred. The Determination Panel shall, if so requested by the licence holder, hold an oral hearing for the purposes of the determination.

COMMENT: In our view, this is in reality the officer choosing the Judges.

• **SI:** Where an SFPA Official detects an alleged serious infringement he/she shall prepare and forward a report to the Determination Panel to determine if they agree a serious infringement has occurred. The Determination Panel shall communicate their determination and reasons for their determination to the SFPA and the licence holder. If the licence holder is deemed to have committed a Serious Infringement by the Determination Panel, the SFPA will assign the Points to the holder of the licence in relation to Irish vessels and in the case of the foreign vessel it will notify the holder of the foreign licence of the Determination Panel's decision.

COMMENT: Contradicting statements that there must be a level playing field for

all Member States.

• **SI:** Points assigned to the holder of an Irish licence remain assigned regardless of any criminal proceedings pending or the outcome of any such proceeding, in respect of the serious infringement concerned.

COMMENT: Even though a Court finds me innocent, the administrative sanction say I am still guilty.

• **SI:** Points notified to the Licensing Authority shall also be recorded against the fishing capacity of the Irish sea-fishing boat concerned and remain so attached even if the boat or the capacity (or any part thereof) is subsequently deregistered or transferred, unless any or all of the points have been deleted.

COMMENT: This affects the persons property rights and their ability to earn a living.

• **SI:** Penalty Points assigned to the fishing capacity associated with the licence will remain attached regardless of any transfer, division or sale of that fishing capacity, or any deregistration of the Irish fishing vessel concerned.

COMMENT: Points will multiply with each division 5 becomes 10 and 10 becomes 20 with each division.

• **SI:** Where fishing capacity from more than one Irish fishing vessel, in respect of which points are assigned, is combined and used for the purpose of an application for an Irish licence relating to another Irish fishing vessel, the total number of points assigned in respect of those first-mentioned boats shall transfer to the holder of the new licence.

COMMENT: Like a virus this spreads to weaken and contaminate the new holder.

• **SI:** Where a SFPA Officer has reasonable grounds for believing that a person is committing or has committed an offence under Regulation 14, he or she may serve a notice in writing (“fixed payment notice”) on that person. That person then has 28 days to pay the SFPA the €200 notice.

COMMENT: “Officer has reasonable grounds for believing.....” As Irish citizens who value freedoms and the right to the presumption of Innocence until proven guilty we are delighted the death penalty has been abolished in Ireland.

“I believe the public have not been made aware of the full story about the scandalous way in which the present Government and its predecessor have treated the Irish fishing industry since we joined the EEC.” ... Read Patrick Murphy's viewpoint on page 13

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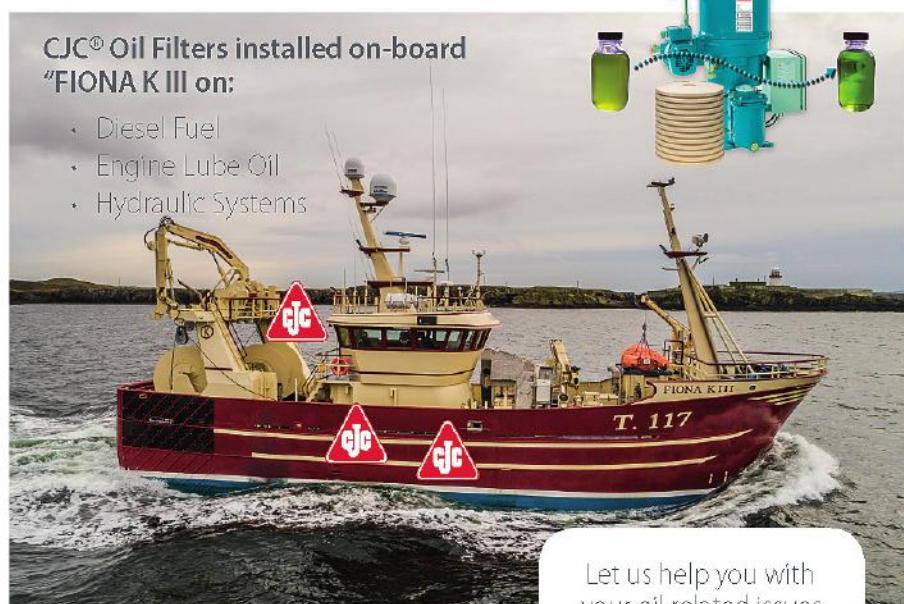
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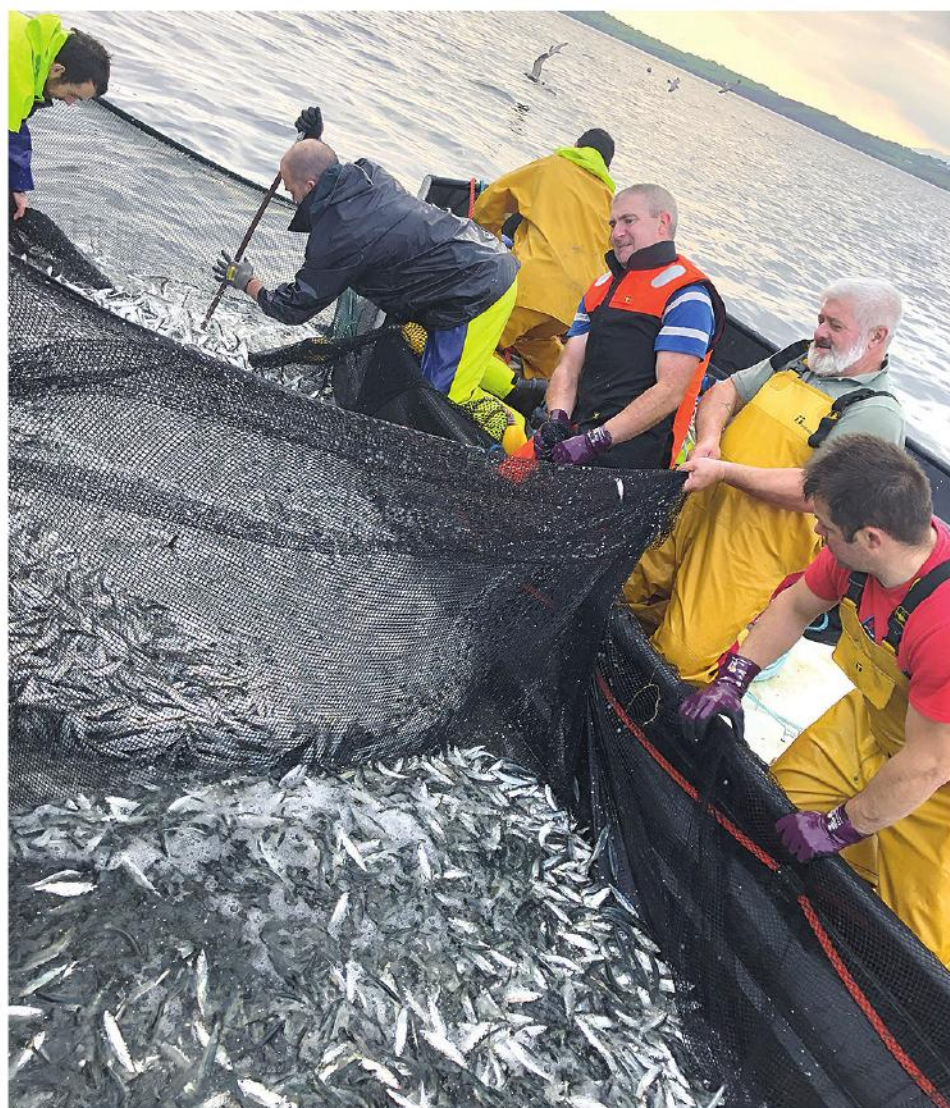
We are focused on the needs and wellbeing of boat owners and their crews involved in Inshore Fishing and nothing else

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) - An Inshore Fisher's Perspective, Friend or Foe?



Alex Crowley, Secretary General of NIFA discusses what MPAs will mean for Inshore fishing in Ireland

Conversations about MPAs are starting to become more frequent of late within the Inshore Fishing community. Rightfully so, it's an important issue that has recently come into focus now that the government consultation on them is gaining momentum.



Traditional small scale pelagic fishery for sprat specifically targeting large sprat which have had the opportunity to reproduce for a high value human consumption export market. Relatively small amounts of fish which can be caught in a manner that has a low environmental impact can create significant employment in some very peripheral locations. The above photo by Kieran McHugh taken of NIFA members fishing in Inver Bay who then use Inver Port pier in Co. Donegal. It's a typical tiny harbour that turns into a hive of activity when fishing is good. This often happens during the Autumn and Winter when these areas are typically quiet. Like many small harbours the infrastructure is poor and needs investment. There is huge potential here if the government supports these communities both in terms of investment in infrastructure in small harbours that inshore fishers use and gives them fairer quota allocations to utilise. We hope that irrespective of political persuasion their elected representatives will see this potential and work together to realise it fully.

In reality these conversations probably should have started in a constructive manner long before now. A couple of years ago one of our members described MPAs as "three scary words" for inshore fishers. It is understandable that he would. Various people have various ideas or visions about what they mean and what impact they typically will have.

The Inshore Fishing community needs to start thinking about its own ideas or visions for MPAs, now certainly isn't the time to stick its head in the sand. We have ambitious targets in the 'Programme for Government' to expand our MPA coverage from the current coverage of around 2.4% to 10% as soon as practical and 30% by 2030. These targets are in line with the EU biodiversity strategy which was published last year.

So, what is an MPA and should Inshore operators be scared of them?

According to Professor Tasmin Crowe, Chair of the MPA Advisory group, a group of government officials and academics... *"MPAs can be thought of as marine areas that are protected and managed over the long term, with a primary objective of conserving habitats and/or species and associated ecosystem services and cultural values."*

Individual MPAs should form part of a network of sites to meet overarching objectives. They are widely used and are envisaged under the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the OSPAR Convention, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Sustainable Development Goals."

The reality of what that will mean for Inshore fishing in Ireland has yet to be decided.

Individual countries can take a great degree of latitude in terms of translating that definition into a working reality.

For example, Australia has "Marine Reserves." One such area is on the Great Barrier Reef, an area where humans are forbidden to enter. A fisherman who travelled through it for safety reasons, as he was in distress, found himself before the Courts for doing so. Commonsense prevailed and the Judge threw the case out. Australia also has "Net Free Zones" areas where commercial fishing is restricted and recreational angling is given preference. Australian commercial fishers will tell you the reason behind the same was more a political desire to placate the influential angling lobby rather than protect the marine environment.

We have already had a taste (or a belly-ful) of that in Ireland in the context of our Salmon and Bass fisheries, where exclusive access to the resource has been given to one economic sector/interest group in the name of conservation. It's questionable if anything has been achieved by this in terms of conservation or improving the condition of both these fish stocks. However the negative socio-economic impact on many coastal communities where commercial

fishing for both salmon and bass contributed significantly is still evident today.

Australia is one example, Spain is another.

In Galicia, MPAs are used not only to protect the marine environment but also traditional small-scale fisheries that themselves are highly dependent on a healthy marine environment in order to exist. In order to do so they have made involvement of the fishers themselves as a fundamental. Fishers there see MPAs as a positive.

We already have MPAs in the form of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protected Areas (SPA). Many Inshore Fishers operate in them regularly. When the debate on SACs started many moons ago, a narrative took hold that they were some kind of "Boogie Man" - they were going to be the death knell of Inshore Fishing - they were going to "close off the bays".

It never happened.

Why?

Probably because Inshore Fishing doesn't have the negative Environmental Impact some people (or lobby groups) would have you believe. The scientific advice was followed and commonsense prevailed - Hopefully it will continue to do so.

The purpose of the Advisory Group is to advise the Government on what approach to take and that's why this consultation process is important.

So, will MPAs be a friend or foe to Inshore Fisheries in Ireland?

Well, a lot of that depends on the Minister for Planning Housing and local Government, Darragh O'Brien and probably whoever will eventually replace him in that office. A lot will depend on their vision for MPAs and what that means for Inshore Fishing.

Should we, Inshore Fishers, be afraid of them?

Well maybe, but what will be achieved by taking fear of them? What's probably more important now is to engage in the process that ultimately is going to lead to their design.

It's important that the Inshore Sector engages on this from the outset. We are doing so on behalf of our members and will be encouraging them to do so as individuals also.

- NIFA is now on Instagram to present the positive side of the inshore sector. With the Marine Spatial Planning and Marine Protected Areas debates and consultations underway, this has been done to get the positive image of the sector out in public.

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Male lobster caught west of Duck Island, Galway on 6th September weighing in at 4.9kg/11lbs. Caught by Sorchá Ridge and Richard McDonagh pictured both holding the lobster aboard the MFV 'Turnog' G108.



MARINE TIMES

NEWSPAPER FOR IRELAND'S FISHING, MARINE AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES



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Questions, Confusion, Irony – All About Penalty Points Again

As we report this month, the fishing industry and the Marine Minister are again at loggerheads.

This is regrettable.

It has taken only a few weeks to break the relationship between the third Marine Minister appointed by the current Government and the industry.

The reintroduction of Penalty Points for alleged illegal fishing is the source of the breakdown. This is a repeat of what happened previously and led to a Government defeat in the Dáil on a Statutory Instrument introduction, which had never before happened in the history of this country.

There is no disagreement that a Penalty Points system is necessary. The EU insists upon it and Ireland could face fines and the denial of funding if such a system is not introduced.

But there agreement ends.

What is at issue is the format and content of the new Statutory Instrument which Taoiseach Micheál Martin signed without, it is claimed, consultation or discussion with the fishing industry. At the time he was acting in the role of Marine Minister. There was, subsequently a "spin" put out by Fianna Fáil sources that he had been blindsided by Department of the Marine officials who did not brief him sufficiently about the content of the SI.

The Taoiseach left the issue to the new Minister he appointed, Charlie McConalogue. At his first meeting with the industry, where the four Fish Producer Organisations were present who had opposed the previous SI and were continuing to do so because it contained the same major provisions that had been rejected by the Dáil and in the Supreme Court, the new Minister supported his Department officials, rejecting alternative proposals which the industry had put forward.

So the situation has now evolved where the Taoiseach and his Marine Minister whose party opposed and led the defeat of the previous SI in the Dáil, now apparently support the new SI which contains the same major, disputed provisions of the former one, which was defeated in the Dáil and the Courts.

This leads to the expressed belief that Department of the Marine officials are totally committed to the concept they

have put forward in the current SI.

The officials and the Minister have stated they are acting on the advice of the Attorney General's Office. This has been described within the fishing industry as an "old chestnut, a time-honoured excuse used by governments" as they don't have to make this advice public, nor how they put forward the issues upon which that advice was sought.

This leads to a reasonable question – If the Department is so determined upon its view as being the correct and only acceptable one about Penalty Points, why was the method of a Statutory Instrument used to introduce them again?

This allows a Government Minister to introduce a system which has been accused of denying fishermen the same Constitutional rights to which all other citizens are entitled. It isolates fishermen at a different level where they are, implicitly, suspected and declared culpable in a manner that appears to assume guilt when not proven, whereas for all citizens the Constitutional position is taken to provide assumption of innocence until proven guilty.

The SI may come before the Dáil where Sinn Féin has threatened to raise it.

Why if the format of the legislation is so important was not introduced to the Dáil for public debate there and in the Seanad as are other matters of importance when new laws are required?

Is the SI system being used to keep from public disclosure the way in which fishermen are treated differently?

It is very regrettable that this situation is creating such anger in the fishing industry at a time when the threat of Brexit is so serious to the industry and needs so much focus and attention. Confusingly, for the observer, there has been agreement between the industry, the Minister and his Department in regard to the challenges of Brexit.

It is, however, ironic that when opposing the last attempted introduction of Penalty Points, the current Minister, Mr. McConalogue, told then Minister, Michael Creed, that he should listen to the industry. Reasonable discussion and debate with the industry might have avoided the current situation.

WEEKLY NEWS AND COMMENT FROM IRELAND'S LEADING MARITIME NEWSPAPER

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Spanish or Axillary Sea Bream (*Pagellus acarne*) Captured in the Shannon Estuary

Declan Quigley reports: While angling in the Shannon Estuary, off Cappagh Pier, Co Clare on 27 August 2020, Clive Morgan captured and released several Spanish or Axillary Sea Bream (*Pagellus acarne*). The specimens, which measured c.20 cm in length, represent the first confirmed records of *P. acarne* from Irish waters.



Although Spanish Sea Bream are commonly found southwards from the Bay of Biscay to Senegal (including Madeira, Canaries and Cape Verde Islands) and the Mediterranean, where it is commercially important, the species is regarded as extremely rare in NW European waters, particularly northwards of the English Channel. Indeed, since 1833, only 26 specimens have been authenticated, including the northernmost record which was captured during September 1966 off the Väderöarna Islands, Bohuslän, SW Sweden (Skagerrak) [58.6°N, 11.1°E].

The species has rarely been recorded from the North Sea, with half of the reports dating the 19th century. During July 1836, two specimens were captured near Musselburgh, in the Firth of Forth, on the east coast of Scotland, and two more off Beadnell (Northumbria) and Whitby (Yorkshire) during December 1867 and January 1887 respectively. During the last century, two specimens were recorded from Danish waters (September 1961 and August 1987), and two more from Dutch waters (May 1969 and June 1972). More recently (prior to 2015), a specimen was reported from SW Scotland.

Juvenile Spanish Sea Bream are gener-

ally found in inshore waters at depths of 20-100 m, whereas adults occur in offshore waters from the surface down to 500 m. On 24 February 2017, the MFV Olgarry (SO591) [Skipper: Marty McGing, Killybegs] captured a specimen while trawling off NW France (*Marine Times*, September 2017). The specimen, which measured 265 mm and weighed 236 g, was donated to the Natural History Museum in Dublin.

Spanish Sea Bream are relatively small, attaining a maximum length and weight of 38 cm and 600 g respectively. The species is a sequential protandric hermaphrodite, changing from a functional male to a functional female at a length of 14-29 cm. The current UK rod & line record, weighing 236 g, was captured during 1995 off SW Guernsey (English Channel). The IGFA World Rod & Line record, weighing 600 g, was captured off Anglet (Southern Biscay, France) during June 2001. The occurrence of this warm-water fish species in Irish waters may be related to increasing sea water temperatures in the NE Atlantic.

Declan is interested in receiving reports about unusual species being caught and asks fishermen if they come across any he can be contacted on mobile 087 6458485 or email: declanquigley@eircom.net

Marine Institute and NPWS Breeding Programme Aims to Safeguard Rare Freshwater Pearl Mussels

Freshwater pearl mussels are on the verge of extinction, and a new joint initiative between the Marine Institute and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) aims to revitalise mussel populations through a pilot captive breeding programme based at the Marine Institute's Newport Research Facility in Co Mayo.

Pearl mussels are capable of surviving for up to 140 years, making them Ireland's longest living animal. The species is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List, and is one of the 365 most endangered species in the world. In Ireland, 19 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) have been designated in an effort to conserve the pearl mussel in its native habitats.

Dr Áine O'Connor, NPWS said, "Captive breeding programmes are already well established in several countries, and we are hopeful that over time this joint project between the Marine Institute and the National Parks and Wildlife Service will lead to a positive outcome for the freshwater pearl mussel in Ireland."

One of the reasons for the decline of the freshwater pearl mussel is the low level of survival of juveniles, which are extremely sensitive to slight changes in environmental conditions. This is leading to an ageing population, not capable of replenishing itself. Juvenile survival is dependent on a clean riverbed, with little silt, sediment or algal growth. These mussels also have a very unusual life cycle, in that they are dependent on the Atlantic salmon and brown trout to host their larvae, called glochidia, for about 10 months. The captive breeding program is targeted at this crucial life stage.

Welcoming the initiative Malcolm Noonan T.D. Minister of State for Heritage, said "The freshwater pearl mussel is an important and iconic species that is on the brink of extinction. I am delighted that my Department is leading on this conservation initiative with the Marine Institute."

The Marine Institute's Newport Research Facility is situated in the Burrishoole catchment, the adjoining catchment to the

Newport River, which contains one of the last remaining reproducing populations of freshwater pearl mussels. The Newport Research Facility operates fish rearing facilities, where salmon and trout are routinely produced for research purposes.



In June 2020, a tank in the Marine Institute's hatchery was set up with 300 juvenile salmon. In July, 30 adult mussels were removed from the Newport River and transported to the tank. The project team are currently waiting to see if mussels will release glochidia and whether these will naturally attach themselves to the gills of the salmon. If successful, the Marine Institute and the National Parks and Wildlife Service will maintain this small experimental population for one

year to see if the juveniles grow to the stage where the mussels can detach from the fish and settle themselves in a suitable habitat.

Dr Elvira de Eyto, Zoologist at the Marine Institute said, "Historically, we know the Burrishoole catchment contained pearl mussels, which gives us some confidence that the water supply to the hatchery on Lough Feeagh is suitable for long term maintenance of the mussel populations."

The pilot captive breeding programme is a partnership between the Marine Institute and the National Parks and Wildlife Service in conjunction with freshwater pearl mussel specialists Evelyn Moorkens and Ian Killeen.

For more information, follow the Freshwater Pearl Mussel project on the Marine Institute's Twitter @MarineInst and the National Parks and Wildlife Service Twitter at @NWPSBioData and @NoticeNature

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Widespread Anger Against Government, Taoiseach and Minister Over Penalty Points

“Looks like we have another Minister who will be led by his officials”

Report by Tom MacSweeney

Once again, the fishing industry is in serious disagreement with a Minister for the Marine. Once again, the dispute is over Penalty Points.

Why has the relationship between the industry and the new Minister deteriorated within a few weeks?

These issues are being discussed in coastal fishing communities.

The new appointed Minister, Charlie McConalogue, has been described as being “led by his officials,” according to the Chief Executive of the Irish Fish Producers’ Organisation, John Ward. (See **IFPO column on page 10**)

When his party, Fianna Fáil, in Opposition led the defeat in the Dáil of the previous attempted introduction of Penalty Points, Mr. McConalogue voiced strong criticism of then Minister, Michael Creed of Fine Gael and said he “should listen to fishermen.”

Now, according to Mr. Ward, the Minister “is using the old ‘chestnut’ of advice from the Attorney General’s Office as his excuse for not bringing in the changes wanted by the fishing industry.”

The Department’s legal advice led to the Supreme Court where the fishing industry’s contrary opinion was accepted and the Statutory Instrument had to be withdrawn.

It is pertinent to seek information about the basis on which the Department’s advice was sought. The terms and issues it put to the Attorney General’s Office when seeking legal advice, have not been disclosed.

While the EU insists on a Penalty Points system, this paper has been told that how this is administered is a matter for each Member State government.

The Irish South and West Fish Producers’ Organisation has decided to “challenge the Constitutionality of the new Statutory Instrument Penalty Points system.” This makes more legal action unavoidable.

The ISWFPO decision was accompanied by a statement (See **ISWFPO full statement on Page 5**) with exceptionally strong criticism of the Taoiseach who signed the new Statutory Instrument. The SI is described as “Taoiseach Michael Martin’s unconstitutional law,” by the ISWFPO.

“This is not just an attack on fishermen and women! This is an attack on everything we as a society hold dear, on our Independence and on our Sovereignty that tears up our Constitution.”

The South West decision was made at its annual meeting where there was angry and heated condemnation of the government, the Taoiseach, the Minister and the Department of the Marine: “The System of Administrative Sanctions is completely

alien to our Irish system of Constitutional and Common Law.”

The South West fishermen went as far as invoking the memory of “the sacrifices made by brave men and women in their struggles of the Easter Rising and the period from 1916 to 1922” in contrast to the proposed implementation of the SI Penalty Points system.

“The Taoiseach brought this in, then ran away from the scene, disappeared behind the new Minister, who in turn has backed the Department officials against us. That’s despite the attempts to indicate that Micheál Martin didn’t realise what he was signing. We won’t forget,” a Castletownbere fisherman said.

Sinn Féin has called for a “root-and-branch reform” of the Department of the Marine, of the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority “and of every agency that operates under the Department.”

The party’s Spokesperson on the Marine, Pádraig MacLochlainn, has said that Sinn Féin will challenge the new SI in the Dáil if the Minister does not respond positively to the views of the fishing industry. (See **MARINE TIMES INTERVIEW on page 16**). He said there is “distrust between the fishing industry and the higher echelons of the Department. I’ve never come across before, a sector that are so fearful and removed from the Department that’s supposed to serve them.”

He said there is, within the Department, “a culture which is about enforcement rather than development” and that fishermen feel criminalised.

The four FPOs have said they do not oppose a Penalty Points system for illegal fishing. It is the format of what is proposed that is disputed and the manner in which fishermen are treated differently from all other citizens in how they would be penalised.

The Department of the Marine has said that a system must be introduced because of fines faced by Ireland for not implementing one and the consequent withdrawal of EU funding to Ireland.

While sources have indicated that changes were made to the last SI before its reintroduction, the FPOs responded that the major issues were not addressed.

The Department rejected alternatives proposed by the industry.

As we go to press with this issue, the MARINE TIMES understands that attempts are continuing to get Minister McConalogue to engage directly with the FPOs



Best wishes to Tadhg O’Callaghan and all the crew with the new vessel “Ailbhe Rose”
Photos by Alan O’Shea



Points System – Secure Expert Legal Assistance

Given the impact of points on a sea-fishing boat licence, the complexity of the process and the strict deadlines involved in the process, it is essential that fishermen and licence holders secure expert legal assistance as soon as the points process is commenced.

DP Barry & Co Solicitors have represented fishermen at all stages of the penalty points process. They initiated the first oral hearing under the 2014 Points Regulations, the predecessor of the current scheme, which resulted in a successful High Court appeal.

The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine signed the European Union (Common Fisheries Policy) (Point System) Regulations 2020 (S.I. No. 318 of 2020) on 26 August 2020.

The Regulation establishes a points system which will apply to the Licence Holder of a sea-fishing boat when a serious infringement of the Common Fisheries Policy is detected within the Exclusive Fishery limits of the State or for an Irish vessel, wherever it may be.

The Sea Fisheries Protection Authority is the competent authority for the establishment of the system and the assignment of points. The Licencing Authority is the competent authority for the recording of points assigned to the licence of an Irish

registered fishing vessel and for the transfer of these points.

The accumulation of points for serious infringements of the Common Fisheries Policy will lead to the suspension of a sea fishing boat licence for a period from 2 months to one year. In extreme cases, the licence may be permanently withdrawn.

The system established by the Regulation involves three stages. The first stage involves a Determination Panel which shall determine whether a serious infringement of the Common Fisheries Policy has occurred. The second stage involves an Appeals Officer and the third stage involves an appeal to the High Court on a point of law. There are strict deadlines for each stage of the process.

It is essential that fishermen and licence holders secure expert legal assistance as soon as the points process is commenced.

For further advice contact DP Barry & Co Solicitors at +(353) 74 9731174 or visit www.barrylaw.ie

Reopening of National Fisheries Colleges

The BIM National Fisheries Colleges of Ireland reopened last month. The colleges, in Greencastle, Co Donegal and Castletownbere, Co Cork had temporarily closed due to restrictions put in place to help stop the spread of COVID-19 in March.



Following an extensive 3-day audit by an independent certification body, ISO 9001:2015 Certification has been awarded to BIM's National Fisheries Colleges of Ireland for delivery of Maritime Training and Education. (Pictured front l-r): Brian Vaughan, Principal, National Fisheries College, Greencastle, Maria McCarron, College Administrator. (Back row l-r): John Kelly, Senior Nautical Instructor, Larry Kealey, Safety Instructor

The reopening coincides with the colleges' recent achievement of ISO 9001:2015 certification; the internationally recognised standard for quality management systems. This certification further ensures that the training received by learners will be of a consistently high standard across all training sites including the two colleges and mobile coastal training units.

Additionally, BIM's updated Quality Assurance System, for the delivery of programmes leading to awards on the National Framework of Qualifications was recently approved by QQI (Quality & Qualifications Ireland).

Since March, BIM supported a range of students through a mix of online learning and project work.

Earlier in the year, the *Skipper Full Certificate of Competency* Programme was adapted and made available online during the college closure. The full-time programme, comprising of nine weeks of on-line learning and an additional three weeks in the classroom in the National Fisheries College, Castletownbere will support four students to complete their studies and receive a skipper licence in 2020.

Extensive consultation has taken place to ensure the safe delivery of training programmes for students and staff of BIM in line with government and HSE advice, and the teams in the colleges look forward to welcoming students back to undertake a wide range of industry training.

Inshore Groups and Sinn Féin Representatives Have A Very Productive Meeting

Representatives from Sinn Féin including its spokesperson on Fisheries Pádraig MacLochlainn met last month with the National Inshore Fishermen's Association's (NIFA) and its sister group the National Inshore Fishermen's Organisation (NIFO), to discuss a number of critical issues affecting the inshore sector.

The lengthy meeting comprehensively discussed topics such as the economic impact of Covid 19 and the response to date from current and previous governments. The proposed ban on pair trawling inside the 6nm limit, included in the program for government. The climate action plan and commitments regarding Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Space to fish in inshore waters and competition with expansion of offshore renewable energy and MPAs. The herring fisheries, collapse of stocks and access to quotas. The brown crab fishery, its importance, the high dependence on it and the loss of market access and profitability. The inshore fisheries strategy and support from government to implement the same, and the EU/US trade deal reducing US lobster import tariffs.

So far, 2020 has been a horrendous year for fisheries, none more so than the inshore sector, bad weather at the start of the year followed by the Corona virus pandemic which collapsed fish markets in mainland Europe and East Asia saw the government implement a tie up scheme that has been described by fishermen as an abject failure on almost every level.

The scheme was designed to assist in adjusting the supply of fish coming onto depressed markets and eligible vessels would be supported to voluntarily opt to tie up for one or two months, during June, July & August. But many fishing vessels under-10 metres were refused access to the temporary voluntary tie-up scheme

due to the lack of sales notes (Sales notes are required to demonstrate a minimum of €5000 in financial activity by their vessel in the calendar year 2019) submitted by buyers to the Irish Sales Note System, administered by the SFPA. Insufficient sales notes were the main reason for applicants being unsuccessful, BIM confirmed.

The agreement on a package of tariff reductions between the EU and US, including tariffs on imports of U.S. live and frozen lobster products and the signing of a penalty points system into law where the SFPA can administer points to fishing licences for perceived fisheries infringements before due process can even be carried out were just some of the issues discussed at the meeting

Rose Conway Walsh TD, from Mayo, Mairead Farrell TD from Galway West, Pádraig Daly TD from Kerry, and Johnny Mythen TD from Wexford also attended the meeting along with Sinn Féin's spokesperson on Fisheries Pádraig MacLochlainn and the directors of NIFA and NIFO.

After the meeting a spokesperson for NIFA and its sister group NIFO told Marine Times, "Sinn Féin gave a commitment to do what they could to see these issues are addressed in a meaningful manner. They also gave what we feel was a genuine commitment to help us address any other issues going forward. We look forward to working with them going forward to ensure issues facing our members receive the attention they deserve."

It Looks Like We Have Another Minister Who Will Be Led by His Officials



John Ward, Chief Executive of the Irish Fish Producers' Organisation goes back to the Penalty Points controversy and the Statutory Instrument signed by Taoiseach Micheál Martin

I keep going back to Penalty Points.

The 4 POs (Ireland's Fish Producer Organisations – the IFPO, the Irish South and East FPO, the Irish South and West FPO and the Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation) met the new Marine Minister, Charlie McConalogue, along with the Secretary General and Assistant Secretary of the Department of the Marine on Wednesday, September 16.

I am disappointed with the meeting as the Minister refused to take on board the amendments proposed by his former party colleague Pat the Cope whilst Fianna Fáil were in Opposition.

He is using the old 'chestnut' of advice from the Attorney General's Office as his excuse for not bringing in the changes wanted by the Fishing Industry.

This is a time-honoured excuse used by governments as they don't have to share this so-called advice or share the questions posed by the Department to give them the advice they wanted.

It's early days yet but it looks like we have another Minister who will be led by his officials.

Two Civil Servants Resign from Marine Casualty Investigation Board

Two vacancies are to be filled on the board of the MCIB after two civil servants resigned. This follows the European Court of Justice decision that the presence of both on the board could conflict with its investigative role and tasks.

The Court decision was in regard to board membership by the Chief Marine Surveyor of the Marine Survey Office and the Secretary General/nominee of the Department of Transport.

The Court found that Ireland was "not fulfilling its obligations under Article 8(1) of Directive 2009/18" governing the investigation of accidents in the maritime transport sector. Ireland had contended that

this was not so and that MCIB reports were independent. The matter had been on-going for two years.

The MCIB confirmed the resignations.

The Department of Transport stated after the Court decision that legal advice was being taken on the finding.

The MARINE TIMES has been told that the Court decision will not be appealed.

Safety Report Says Coast Guard Is "Undergoing Significant Reform" - SAR National Committee wants to ensure difference between Search-and-Rescue and Search-and-Recovery is "More Explicit" See page 19 for report

Development Responsibility for Islands Moved by Government to Rural and Community Department

Responsibility for development of the offshore Islands was transferred from the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys, at the end of September.

This was done under the Islands (Transfer of Departmental Administration and Ministerial Functions) Order which was put into effect on Wednesday, September 23rd.

Minister Humphreys welcomed the formal transfer of responsibility to her Department and announced the allocation of €370,000 in grants for improvement works.

"The integration of the islands function under the remit of my Department will ensure a more integrated and cohesive approach to the development of rural and community policy for the people living on the islands and for their economies," she said. "The Programme for Government includes a commitment to develop a new Policy for Island Development which will identify and address the main challenges and opportunities to support the social,

economic and cultural development of our island communities. There has already been a large amount of consultation in relation to the development of this policy. This will continue to fully inform the new Islands policy."

The Islands to benefit from the €370,000 funding announcement are: Cape Clear, Heir and Sherkin Islands in Cork; Inishbofin and Inishmore in Galway and Arranmore in Donegal. Works to be undertaken with the funding include resurfacing of roads, repairs to sea walls and slipways and work on damaged coastal defences, according to the Department of Rural and Community Development. The money will be paid to the County Councils for the work: Cork County Council getting €79,125; Galway CC €191,738 and Donegal €98,828.

NWWAC Advice on Brown Crab Accepted by European Commission

The North West Waters Advisory Council (NWWAC) has received written confirmation from the European Commission that it will be taking their advice on brown crab.

The North Western Waters Advisory Council (NWWAC) wrote to the Director-General of DG MARE, Charlina Vitcheva last month outlining the recommendations from its brown crab focus group addressing issues that are common to all brown crab stakeholders.

One of those recommendations is the development of a joint group to manage the North Sea crab stocks.

In its advice the NWWAC recommended:

The individual vessel sectors, including both inshore (<12 metre) and offshore, of the brown crab industry, with regard to both fisheries and markets, cannot be dealt with in isolation. The fisheries now include substantial areas of the North Sea and mainland Europe is a major hub for landing and exporting, particularly live crab. As soon as possible, management measures will have to be developed on an appropriate scale in order to respond to the challenges posed by the different areas and fishing fleets.

A major issue for exporters to China and other Asian countries is the difference in regulation regarding heavy metals, particularly cadmium. This applies to all the exporting countries but Ireland, the UK and France have been individually excluded from Chinese markets for lengthy periods while Health Certificates and monitoring programmes are negotiated and renegotiated. This situation creates enormous uncertainty along the entire supply chain and must be addressed.

Strategies are needed, and fall-back plans must be developed to protect stakeholders when unforeseen events bring their industry to a standstill.

In her letter to the Chairman of the NWWAC, DG MARE, Director General Charlina Vitcheva said, "We fully understand

the current difficulties we all face during the Covid-19 pandemic and in particular those facing the fishing sector. Let me also assure you that, whilst not managed by an annual TAC at EU level, the Commission fully recognises that brown crab is of great importance as a fishery. Therefore, we are in agreement that the stock should continue to be managed in a sustainable manner and we thus support and count on the work done by the Advisory Councils in recent years.

The development of a joint group with the North Sea is a commendable idea and I will instruct my services to participate wherever possible. Whilst there are indeed some management measures already in place at the European level, such as an effort regime and minimum sizes, the Commission would welcome further measures to be developed through the regionalisation process.

Depending on the nature of your recommendations, this would most likely involve the drafting of a Joint Recommendation from the relevant Member States regional groups. Thus, I would strongly advise that the Advisory Councils also invite representatives from the Member States to attend future meetings on brown crab management.

On the subject of joint management with the United Kingdom, it is indeed too soon to tell what our future relationship will look like. However, I can assure you that the management of non-TAC stocks, such as brown crab are also important for us. Joint management for the future continues to be a key subject for our negotiation team.

I read with concern your report on the difficulties individual Member States are experiencing with the export and trade of brown crab, particularly with China. I will communicate your concerns to my colleagues in DG TRADE, who may wish to contact you further on this issue."

Developing an Island Fisheries App



IIMRO - The Irish Islands Marine Resource Organisation Cooperative Society Limited – is amongst 51 projects selected to receive grant aid from a €3 million funding distribution by the Rethink Ireland group.

This is the first phase of Rethink Ireland's 'Innovate Together Fund' awards which are being made from a total funding resource of €5.6m. The 51 awardees were selected from 481 projects which had applied for grants from the Fund. These 'best projects' have been chosen to receive cash grants of between €20,000 and €200,000 to support their innovative responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. The projects will also receive a non-financial business support package.

The IIMRO project is called the Abalobi Fisheries App.

Markets which usually take fish and shellfish from offshore island fisheries have collapsed over the last number of years and worsened dramatically due to the pandemic. As a result, most island-based fishers cannot sell their catch and are completely dependent on emergency COVID payments. The lack of income or alternative support for fishers will have a disproportionate impact on fishery-dependent island communities.

The project consists of the development of an innovative and integrated online and phone App system that will facilitate small-scale fishers to log their catch and direct sales to consumers, of traceable fish and shellfish from the islands.

The programme aims to promote traceable, storied seafood by empowering small-scale fishers from catch-to-customer in a manner that is not only ecologically responsible, but also socially fair. This will

ensure access to market and income generation for fishers in the area.

The IIMRO-Abalobi App partnership will see the first roll-out of the system in

Europe and promises to make major changes to the way catches are documented and sold.

The App was first developed in South Africa and this will be the first time it is partnered with in Europe.

The funding will be used to adapt the App suite to Irish requirements for species, sales notes and reporting. The investment will also cover costs associated with marketing, recruiting and enrolling fishers and customers onto the system.

The Government of Ireland, through the Department of Rural and Community Development (via the Dormant Accounts Fund) committed €5m. to the 'Innovate Together Fund' as part of a €40M support package to the community and voluntary sector in May. Rethink Ireland have since received additional donations from the Z Zurich Foundation, Medtronic, Twitter and Oakfield Trust. The Fund supports charities' innovative responses to the COVID-19 crisis that will also provide lasting change.

Deirdre Mortell CEO of Rethink Ireland said: "The projects cover the spectrum from physical and mental health supports, to online education, community outreach, sustainability, food security and re-skilling our workforce. It is phenomenal to see the depth and breadth of innovation in Ireland at the moment."



Jerry Early, Chair of IIMRO

news from Castletownbere

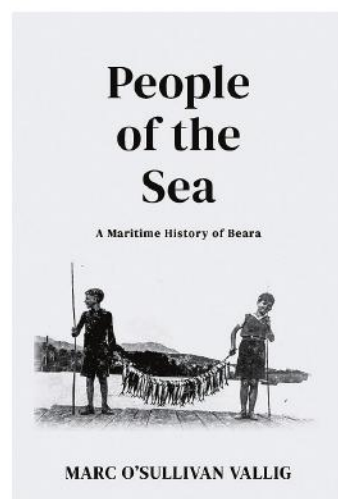
Helen Riddell

Castletownbere Development Association

The Castletownbere Development Association (CDA) would like to encourage all local residents, businesses and clubs to organise community events and fundraisers and the association will assist with promoting and running the event. All events should be run with full adherence to Government COVID-19 guidelines.

The CDA are also organising a number of events in the town for Halloween. These include a virtual pumpkin carving competition, a Halloween Display competition with prizes for the best decorated residential and business premises, an Oscars Night drive in movie costume competition on the pier, and a haunted house event at St Peters. Further details of all the events are available on the group's facebook page.

Beara Maritime Book



People of the Sea: A Maritime History of Beara by Marc O'Sullivan Vallig is a collection of interviews with local fishermen, boat owners, agents, search and rescue personnel and others associated with the sea and Beara and can be ordered at bearatourism1@gmail.com (€20 plus postage). The book, which is also available on Amazon is published by Beara Tourism, with support from BIM.

Parish Newsletters

Contributions are now invited for the Castletownbere Development Association. Articles or photos can be emailed to ctbannualnewsletter@gmail.com as soon as possible. All submissions will be acknowledged.

Bere Island Projects Group will be publishing the 2020 Bere Island Christmas Newsletter and are seeking submissions. All family news items, photos and stories of Christmases on the island from days gone by are all welcome. The deadline for all submissions is Friday October the 23rd. Items can be emailed to Helen at bereconservation@gmail.com or dropped into the Projects Group Office.

Photo Competition

A photographic competition organised by the Wellbeing Network, West Cork

and the Beara Camera Club has been launched and is open to all residents of West Cork. The aim of the competition is to find the best 'feel good' photos this autumn in West Cork. Photographs can be emailed to feelgoodwestcork@gmail.com with the title (if any, your name, town or village and a contact email and phone number. The prizes are 1st €30, 2nd €20, 3rd €15 (as vouchers). Photos must be .jpg format, and entry is restricted to West Cork residents, with one entry per person. Each entry must be the photographer's own work, the copyright of each photo will remain with the photographer, but the organisers reserve the right to use entries in connection with the competition and/or the West Cork Feel Good Festival. The closing date for all entries is October 10th. Entries will be judged on "Feel Good" factor and photographic merit. The judges' decision is final.

The competition is part of the West Cork Feel Good festival. Details of the festival can be found at www.thewellbeingnetwork.ie/feelgoodfestival. Results will be announced on the festival website on October 18th together with a selection of entries.

Contract Awarded for Cargo Service to Bere Island

Funding of €176,000 has recently been approved for Bere Island Projects Group CLG to provide a subsidised heavy cargo ferry service to Bere Island. The two year contract was announced by Catherine Martin TD, Minister for Media, Tourism, Arts, Culture, Sport and the Gaeltacht and Jack Chambers TD, Government Chief Whip and Minister of State for the Gaeltacht and Sport. The two-year contract started in August 2020 and will run through to August 2022. The service will be operated by Bere Island based company Blue Ocean Marine Ltd.

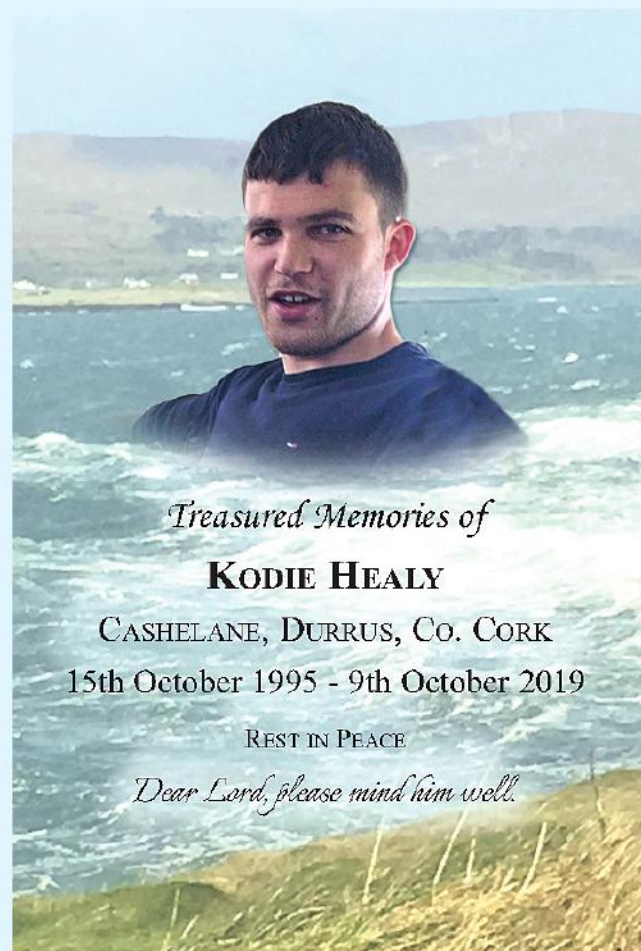
Commenting on the funding, Minister Martin said, "I am delighted to make this announcement. The Government recognises the importance of services such as these to support the communities on the offshore islands." Minister of State Chambers added "I recognise the importance of such cargo services, and it's a positive thing that a contract has been agreed and in place to support the people on Bere Island"

John Walsh, Project Officer with Bere Island Projects Group said the subsidised cargo service was vital to support islanders and ensure the viability of the islands, "the cargo service is a vital service to the community of Bere Island and Bere Island Projects Group are delighted that it has been renewed for the next two years."

The subsidy will make it significantly cheaper for islanders to bring in heavy cargo loads (over 17 tonnes) to the island. The Government provides transport subsidies for 19 inhabited offshore islands under various agreements, which covers passenger ferries, cargo services and air transport services.

Kodie Healy

First Anniversary Acknowledgement



As we lovingly remember Kodie on his first anniversary- we the Healy family wish to express our heartfelt and sincere appreciation to all those who helped in any way during the search for Kodie, during his funeral and afterwards.

To the local fishermen and neighbours who were with us from the very beginning and whose care and understanding, judgement and willing spirit will never be forgotten. To Valentia Coastguard Radio for their prompt mobilizing of the massive search that followed. To Schull and Goleen Coastguard who were on scene almost immediately, co-ordinating and scouring the coastline. To the Baltimore and Castletownbere lifeboats who responded so quickly and were heart lifting to see on AIS when en route to the area. To the helicopter crews who swept the area that night and afterwards. To the fishing trawlers and crews who joined the search that first night and all the vessels that joined through the following days including the Bantry Inshore Search and Rescue. To the Navy who arrived on scene and remained for the entire search. To the crowds and crowds of people- neighbours, friends and family and the extended coastal community who came from near and far to search for Kodie from the first night onwards. To the volunteer diving units without whose skills, courage and tenacity it is certain that Kodie would not have been returned to us so soon. To the Civil Defence who came out in force to join the search. To the Gardaí who helped support the search and helped to keep people safe.

We would like to thank our families, neighbours and friends near and far, for their unwavering support, help and kindness. To those who made houses available as search bases, those who provided and brought food and helped to distribute it, those who helped with traffic management during the search and Funeral, those who visited our home including Fr Anthony and Fr Alan, those who attended the rosary, and to acknowledge the huge numbers who attended the removal, mass and burial and to the numerous Guards of Honour. To those who travelled long distances to be with us, sent sympathy cards, mass cards, perpetual enrolments and messages of condolence, phone calls and texts. To Deirdre for the beautiful floral arrangements and bouquets and to those who had masses offered, lit candles and kept us in their prayers. We are truly grateful.

We would like to thank Fr Anthony Buckley, Fr Paddy Hickey and Fr Liam Hickey who celebrated a very special funeral mass and all who participated in the mass and to Derry and Terry for the music. To Charles O'Sullivan Undertakers for their professionalism and care, the gravediggers our close neighbours Donie and Denis Bowen and Tim Murnane for their forethought and help, the Bunratty Inn for providing refreshments. We would also like to thank the LAST Charity.

We thank all who helped in any way. Your support and kindness was the strength that helped carry us through that week and the months that followed.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our deepest gratitude. The Holy Sacrifice of the mass has been offered for your intentions.

First Anniversary Mass will take place on Saturday 10th October at 8pm in the Church of the Seven Sacraments, Lowertown.

The South - West View



Patrick Murphy
CEO Irish South and West Fish Producers' Organisation

The public has not been told the full story about the scandalous way the Government has treated the fishing industry

Does the Irish Government Want the Irish Fishing Industry to Continue to Exist or Does It Not? The Government Must Answer This Question

I believe the public have not been made aware of the full story about the scandalous way in which the present Government and its predecessor have treated the Irish fishing industry since we joined the EEC.

It is an accepted fact that Ireland got a bad deal with regard our fishing communities when we joined Europe in the early 1970's.

It is ever only when tragedy is visited upon our Industry that the public realise that fishermen, who when they go to sea, work in a potentially dangerous environment where they risk their lives to catch fish and provide a source of great food.

It is hard, as one who comes from a fisherman born to a small Island community, growing up in this Industry, to understand this.

Looking at the endless Regulations and Rules that are foisted upon this Industry, it is no surprise fishermen feel so disregarded and badly treated by successive Government?

At the moment the fishing industry is dealing with several challenges to its future, climate change, plastic pollution, Covid 19, Brexit, Displacement of ever increasing effort from EU vessels into our exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and the Government attitude is not helping.

This can be summed-up by the attitude shown by the Taoiseach, by the new Minister and the Department of the Marine when the slightly-changed previously-defeated Statutory Instrument was re-introduced without one word to the Industry.

It is astonishing to me how Taoiseach Micheal Martin could sign the same flawed law back into force when his party led the opposition to revoke the same unfair procedures as the last Statutory Instrument when introduced into the Dáil for a second time, resulting in its resounding defeat there – the

first time in the history of the State that this had happened.

The Taoiseach signs it again and the Minister, who strongly opposed it then and is on record as doing so, now supports it.

It is unbelievable!

How can they stand over contradicting themselves in this way and yet maintain that they are acting in the best interests of the State and the EU?

Acting for the EU but, if so, it is not in the best interests of the fishermen and fishermen of our State.

The industry does not object to the need for Penalty Points against those who fish illegally. We have no problem with that.

What is wrong and fundamentally wrong, is to treat fishermen in a different way to any other citizen, to hold them guilty even when they are found innocent in Court and to subject them to the higher level of Court and its expense, to make any appeal, a way in which no other citizen is pursued or prosecuted by the State which is picking its judge, jury and penalty. No citizen should be subjected to that.

There is no reason that a system cannot be agreed with the fishing industry.

We could move forward together, but it seems that somewhere in the Department of the Marine they are determined to get this in. They lost the last battle to pursue it so surely will defy the Court which decided against them. If the government is so dedicated to getting its system through into law why didn't they bring it in through legislation presented to the Dáil where, as with any other legislation, it would be debated and voted on and the public could see exactly what its attitude towards the fishing industry is.

To me that is scandalous.

It will be opposed by the fishing industry.

There is no alternative.

There will be another legal battle which will be costly and take time, energy and involve high costs to protect fishermen and ensure that they are treated like any other Irish citizen, not subject to the isolation and targeting they are being subjected to.

Fishermen have suffered trauma from all of this. Why?

Again we come back to that question.

While the industry has been told it will be protected from the effects of Brexit and that the EU will back Ireland in that regard, there are issues emerging which are not reassuring to the industry.

If there is no deal with the UK, then there is the likelihood of a flood of many more EU vessels into Irish waters, which will have a huge damaging effect on the sustainability of the stock of fish in our waters, damaging the future for these waters and our fleets and our coastal communities.

Ireland should have the strongest rights in our own waters.

Will this be protected, because if not then the future of our industry and our coastal communities is threatened. To date we do not see a 'Plan B' from the Department nor our Government in this regard.

It is time to ask the question – which does the Government consider most important in this regard – the EU or the Irish fishing industry?

It is time for the government to answer and to be clear, unequivocal, honest, committed.

Does it want the Irish fishing industry to continue to exist or does it not?

First Tadpole Fish in Tralee Bay

TADPOLES are well-known, to youngsters in particular, who often catch them and wonder when they will turn into young frogs. Once hatched, tadpoles take about 14 weeks to transform into tiny frogs But there is also a **TADPOLE FISH**, about the biology of which little is known.

So the catching of one in the past week off the Magharee Islands on the Kerry coast has caused interest amongst Irish marine scientists, because this is the first known record of one in Tralee Bay.

It is a small fish, maximum length 30 cms and weight 560 grams, a solitary, elusive, species.

It was caught by fisherman Patrick Hussey while potting. He photographed it and released it alive.

"There are only about 30 published records of Tadpole fish caught in Irish inshore waters, 9 of these dating from the 19th century," says Declan Quigley, a fisheries expert with the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority. "Although the species has been recorded from the Rockall Bank at depths of 130-560m, there are no known records from the Porcupine Bank."

Though common in some areas of the Irish coastline, they have not been seen on others, such as never before in Tralee Bay.

"As the name suggests, Tadpole Fish superficially look like large Tadpoles.

Although the overall body colour is dark, the mouth and lips are distinctively white. Due to their relatively small size, Tadpole Fish have no commercial or

culinary value. Therefore they may be more likely rarely recorded rather than actually rare," says Declan Quigley.

More information on its distribution in Irish waters is welcomed (declanquigley@eircom.net; 087-6458485)

Editors correction: In our last issue we made an error with a photo credit and name in our coverage of the Oilfish catch, the credit should have gone to Padraig Ring. Apologies



Tadpole Fish captured by Patrick Hussey while potting off the Magharee Islands, Tralee Bay, Co Kerry

Killala Coast Guard Unit Is Not Fully Operational

“Return to full status as soon as possible” – Minister for Transport

The Killala Coast Guard Unit has been ordered not to engage in marine rescue operations because it is not fully operational due to ongoing staffing problems.

Mayo TD, Dara Calleary was told by Transport Minister, Eamon Ryan, whose Department is responsible for the Coast Guard, in a Written Reply to a Parliamentary Question, that “a plan is in place to expedite the Unit to full operational status as soon as possible.”

Coast Guard management issued an Email telling volunteers that they could not undertake marine rescue.

The ongoing situation is due to difficulties already reported in the Unit by this paper and which have not been resolved, though a private company was engaged by the Coast Guard in an attempt to do so. The entire Unit was stood down earlier in the Summer. When questions on that were put to the Department in June it would not comment on issues in specific Units.

The Killala Unit had at least 17 active members and was one of the biggest on the coast. There were internal personnel issues for several months

Last month (September) Deputy Calleary questioned the status of the Killala Unit to which Minister Ryan responded in writing: “The Killala Coast Guard Unit is operational and is currently available in the event of a call-out. The Killala Coast Guard Unit has been available for Search Function since July 3, 2020 having completed their Return to Training Protocols as required under our Covid-19 procedures. The Unit remains ‘off-the-board’ for Boat Search and Rescue while they carry out requisite exercising/training on their boats. In the event of an incident arising in the area whilst they are afloat and training, they may be tasked to assist. A plan is in place to expedite the unit to full operational status as soon as possible.”

While Deputy Calleary was told that the Unit is “currently available in the event of a call-out,” this would not be for active rescue because, as the Minister also stated in his answer it is “off-the-board for boat search and rescue.”

The reference to “off-the-board” while carrying out exercising and training was described to me by a former Unit member as: “A box-ticking exercise, there are not enough members in the Unit who have the experience of those who have either left, were dismissed, or are not available, so the Unit is not as active as it

needs to be. They have been told not to launch to carry out a rescue and that, if an emergency happens while they are training they may be asked to assist. Effectively the Unit is only allowed in a limited capacity on the water.”

It is understood that some Unit members are not currently available for a variety of reasons and it is below staff level.

“It is not unusual for difficulties to arise in a Unit amongst Volunteers. These were often resolved amongst ourselves, but this time management didn’t allow for that,” the MARINE TIMES was told.

It has been claimed that the Killala Unit was not able to respond on the water last month when kayakers got into difficulties near Enniscrone, within the Unit’s operational area. Two were rescued by the Coast Guard helicopter from Sligo.

The Unit was involved ashore.

Personnel issues involving Volunteers have occurred at Units around the coast where there have been dismissals. Tracking these, they appear to have started in the North/East and were gradually reported as occurring at stations down the coast, around the South and now in the North/West.

“There has been a change in management attitudes, which are more confrontational than constructive and discursive and will not engage with anyone who questions or challenges the decisions they issue which are like edicts that they expect to be accepted without question, even when Volunteers with experience might have other constructive suggestions to make,” a former officer in one of the Units involved told the Marine Times. “There will be more personnel issues, particularly it seems involving older members who are also the more experienced. I am proud of the Coast Guard and of having been involved, but Volunteers should be to the forefront of concern and attention. They are the ones who go out in response to calls for help. There is a management and human relations difficulty and that is not being addressed.”

The Department did not answer questions put to it by the MARINE TIMES up to this edition of the paper going to press.

IFA AQUACULTURE

Irish Aquaculture Needs to Be Taken Seriously!

says Teresa Morrissey, IFA Aquaculture Executive



Priorities for New Minister

In August I wrote about the priorities for the new DAFM Minister and the failure of the ‘Programme for Government’ to recognise the significant opportunity for Irish aquaculture in light of the increasing global demand for seafood, more sustainable food sources, and carbon efficient food production.

These priorities remain the same for the current New Minister, Charlie McConalogue T.D., who should be acutely aware that a commitment to implement ALL recommendations of the Independent Aquaculture Licensing Review must be matched by meaningful action and resources to achieve this.

The Irish Aquaculture sector needs the support of policy in order to achieve any realistic sustainable development so as to unlock any future potential of the Irish aquaculture industry. In other words, Irish Aquaculture must be taken seriously by those responsible for the sustainable development of the sector. For far too long the Irish Aquaculture sector has had to continuously innovate, face challenges and find resilience in finding its own niche with limited support from policy makers. As is well known to many within the Aquaculture sector we have numerous Government policy documents pledging support for the industry, setting targets for future aquaculture development to increase production and promises for reform of the aquaculture licensing system, but yet we await the realisation of any of these aspirations.

The lack of support for the Irish Aquaculture sector can also be measured by the failure of the State to implement EU measures which allow for redirecting of available EMFF funds allowing for financial assistance to be granted to aquaculture farmers and processing enterprises to assist the sector in dealing with the current Covid-19 crisis. It is now almost 6 months since the EU Commission amended regulations to allow Member States to redirect available EMFF funds in response to the Covid-19 crisis.

Irish Aquaculture, the shellfish sector in particular, continues to be impacted by the ongoing market disruption with many shellfish enterprises at serious risk of going out of business. It is incumbent on the State to assist these businesses by providing sectoral support, to save livelihoods and contribute to the survival of the sector through this crisis. Minister McConalogue must immediately redirect available EMFF funds as financial aid for the Irish aquaculture industry to support them in dealing

with the Covid-19 crisis.

There is an urgent need for the Irish Aquaculture sector to be taken seriously by policy-makers, State agencies and ultimately the incoming Minister and his DAFM officials. This is compounded by the impact of the Covid-19 crisis continuing to cause major concern to large parts of the Irish Aquaculture sector. Now is the time to ensure that Irish aquaculture is part of the Covid-19 recovery solution, during a time of the greatest need for sustainable food production through the development of sustainable Irish aquaculture. This must be underpinned by commitment to implement ALL recommendations of the Independent Aquaculture Licensing Review and the support of suitable policy to develop the Irish Aquaculture sector.

To that end, the “Strategic Guidelines for Sustainable EU Aquaculture” are currently being drafted by the EU Commission (DG MARE). These guidelines will be an update of the previous EU guidelines adopted in 2013, which are being reviewed to support Member States and the sector in further developing aquaculture production in the EU and ensuring the sustainability and competitiveness of this economic activity. Member States will subsequently be obliged to update their National Strategic Plans for Sustainable Aquaculture Development, on foot of the guidance provided from these EU guidelines. IFA Aquaculture, through the EU Aquaculture Advisory Council (AAC), has contributed to the preparation of recommendations for these EU guidelines and continues to contribute to this process. A public consultation process on the draft guidelines is currently ongoing (closing date 27th October 2020), where all interested parties have an opportunity to contribute to the discussion on main challenges, opportunities and priorities for EU aquaculture in the future.

IFA Aquaculture members and all interested parties are encouraged to contribute to this public consultation until October 27: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12261-Strategic-Guidelines-for-EU-aquaculture-update/public-consultation>

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Keeping you informed between our monthly printed edition



Tom MacSweeney's Maritime Ireland Diary

Understanding the Past to Predict the Future

The group pictured here aboard the Marine Institute's *RV Celtic Explorer* spent 24 days in the Nordic and Greenland Seas investigating past climate change in the Arctic region. They are scientists from NUI Galway; the University of Southampton in England; the University of Bremen of Germany and Bergen University in Norway. That is quite a widely representative group who have been monitoring and capturing a record of temperature, salinity and the carbonate system in those seas.



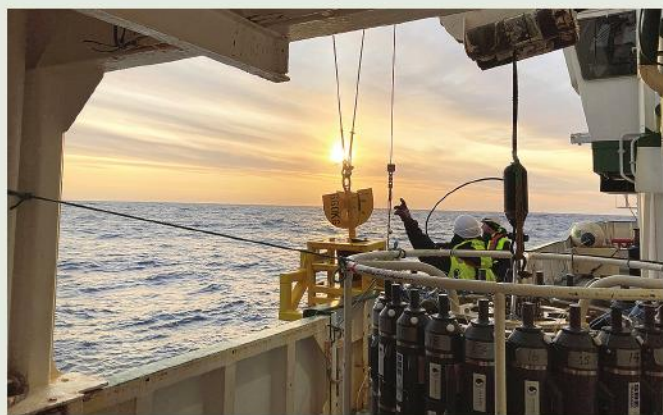
So what does all that mean, because scientific research can often seem quite remote from daily life? Does that long voyage, which was intended to "improve understanding of essential climate variables and how they are recorded in geologic archives," mean much to you?

"One of the key challenges in climate change science is assessing the magnitude of future change, due to short observational records which are limited to the past 150 years," according to the lead scientist on the research trip, Dr Audrey Morley of the, School of Geography and Archaeology at NUI Galway.

"Our research is unique, as we are not only observing modern essential climate variables, but will also look into the past to assess how essential climate variables have evolved since before pre-industrial conditions. This long-term perspective is crucial and will help us to better understand our environment and the environmental consequences of human activities."

That comment struck a chord with me because I've been doing my own bit of study in recent weeks about climate change. Like, I suspect, many other people, I hadn't a lot of knowledge that five past

"mass extinctions" heavily affected the diversity of life on Earth.



(Above): The CIAAN survey on the *RV Celtic Explorer* returned to Galway, after travelling to the Arctic region for the first time.

(Below): Dr Audrey Morley on the CIAAN survey.



A "mass extinction" is a time period in which a large percentage of all known living species go extinct. There are several causes for "mass extinctions," such as climate change, geologic catastrophes, such as numerous volcanic eruptions, or even meteor strikes on Earth's surface. There have been five "mass extinctions" in 440 million years of what is known of Earth's existence. Scientific studies have revealed these.

The University of Cape Town provided a short course over five weeks to study these "mass extinctions." I found it particularly interesting that recovery from each "mass extinction" was quicker in the oceans than on land. We're still talking millions of years for such recovery, but the importance of the seas came across time and again.

The research voyage took the *Celtic Explorer* to 79 Degrees North in the Greenland Sea, which is the highest latitude to which it has gone. To operate there the ship had to get Polar Code Certification and the first Irish vessel to receive it, increasing her ocean research capabilities.

"The Arctic is a sensitive and vulnerable environment with regards to global warming. The North Atlantic and Nordic Seas are a key region for the formation of North Atlantic Deepwater and the uptake of atmospheric carbon dioxide. Whether or not this region will remain a carbon sink during rapidly warming climates is a question that remains to be answered," according to Dr. Morley who is President of the Network of Arctic Researchers in Ireland.

Research in the Arctic region will improve forecasting of changes in the oceans and climate. "This will inform effective policy and management decisions to meet the challenges posed by climate change," the CEO of the Marine Institute, Dr. Paul Connolly said.

Listening to Scientists

While it is necessary to listen to scientists and while there has been disagreement between them and fishermen, there have also been examples of agreed joint action following research findings. One aspect, however, was highlighted in an Email from a reader: "Why is it that no matter what findings scientists come up with, the NGOs (non-governmental organisations) will always strip out a section with which they will hammer fishermen as much as possible and the media will highlight that aspect?"

Where Are They All Coming From?

That was the question one of our readers posed in an Email to me about "increasing numbers of new marine species arriving here that have not seen before in Irish

waters."

Down in Kerry Kevin Flannery is one of the most respected maritime voices in Ireland. A Marine Biologist, former Fisheries Officer and Founder of Dingle Oceanworld Aquarium, he has been involved in the maritime world for over 50 years and is one of its most respected and authoritative figures. He has noted, with the support of fishermen who have brought these species to him, quite a few that would not have been visitors to our waters before.

And Declan Quigley of the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority, based in Howth, Co. Dublin, who is an expert in fisheries research and has published 375 scientific papers, has been reporting recently in the pages of the MARINE TIMES species which have not been seen regularly before in Irish waters.

Amongst these were an Oilfish, caught about 80 nautical miles South West of Castletownbere, in County Cork. It was only the third of its kind ever taken in Irish waters. The first Irish specimen was caught 86 years ago and the second 17 years ago. He also told us of the Marbled Electric Ray caught by the Kilmore Quay trawler, Tilly; the Tadpole Fish caught off the Magharees in Kerry, which was the first-known record of one in Tralee Bay and the first Spanish sea bream caught in in Irish waters, which was in the Shannon Estuary, off Cappagh Pier, Co. Clare.

Where Has This Island Nation Gone?

You may be asking that question. The radio programme is taking a break for re-design and re-launch, which is intended to align it more with the necessary increased usage of social media and video, all intended to increase coverage and reportage of the maritime sector, of which there is still not enough in the national media. We'll keep you informed about development.

Meantime, keep reading and supporting the MARINE TIMES. Podcasts will continue in our weekly online WEEKENDER review.



THE MARINE TIMES INTERVIEW

“I think there is a culture which is about enforcement rather than development. We are an island nation. We really should be maximising the immense resources in the seas around us.”



Padraig MacLochlainn, Sinn Féin Spokesperson on Fisheries and Marine

Intriguingly, the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Fianna Fáil's Charlie McConalogue and the Sinn Féin Spokesperson on Fisheries and Marine, Padraig MacLochlainn, are both Dáil Deputies for the Donegal Constituency and both live on the Inishowen Peninsula.

When he was appointed as his party's Spokesperson, 47-year-old Padraig MacLochlainn said: “I have a passion for our fishers and our coastal communities.”

Since being appointed and having had discussions with fishermen and industry representative organisations, he has found a “common denominator” amongst them which he summarises as “distrust with those at the higher echelons of the Department of the Marine.”

“That's a massive challenge for the incoming Minister,” he says and has offered to work with his fellow constituency representative to deal with the issue.

Interviewed by the MARINE TIMES, he called for a “root-and-branch reform” of the Department of the Marine, of the

Sea Fisheries Protection Authority “and of every agency that operates under it. I've never come across before, as I have in the last number of weeks, a sector that are so fearful and removed from the Department that's supposed to serve them.”

Referring to the on-going review of the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority, Mr. MacLochlainn says “there will be a need for big changes in that organisation.”

Excerpts from the interview with Deputy Editor Tom MacSweeney:

Q: You highlight a lack of trust between fishermen and senior echelons in the Department of the Marine. That appears to be a core in aspects of the fishing industry's relationship with the Department at present.

Padraig MacLochlainn: I have been involved in extensive discussions and consultations with fishermen and fishing representatives all around the coast since I was appointed as Sinn Féin Spokesperson on Fisheries and the Marine and the common denominator with every single person

I've spoken to is their distrust with those at the higher echelons of the Department of the Marine and their disillusionment with them and that's a massive challenge for the incoming Minister.

Q: At the MARINE TIMES we hear from people who have reflected that level of distrust and unhappiness with their relationship with the Department and who tell us they are reluctant to let their names be used in print about their complaints, because they feel they might be targeted. Has that been represented to you?

PMacL: I have to say, sadly, it has. There is a sense that the Department of the Marine are a very powerful department in terms of their control over the whole remit of Marine, if you look at Bord Iascaigh Mhara, if you look at the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority, if you look at financial allocations and indeed what are seen as punitive enforcement actions on an on-going basis. So there is no doubt that there is fear to speak out. I have to say, I've been a national public representative now for nine-and-a-half years and I've covered a lot of portfolios and sat on a lot of various committees covering various sectors. I've never come across before, as I have in the last number of weeks, a sector that are so fearful and removed from the department that's supposed to serve them. It's a massive problem and it's a huge challenge for the incoming Minister. I am happy to work with him on that, but he needs to listen, he needs to engage in a widespread consultation and then act on what he's hearing.

Q: Can you put your finger on any reason that that situation has developed because, from what we hear, it has been going on for a number of years?

PMacL: I think there is a culture which is about enforcement rather than development. We are an island nation. We really should be maximising the immense resources in the seas around us. I get a sense that when you look at the Department

that's responsible for doing that, it is certainly, on the balance, that is certainly the feeling of the fishing communities. They feel that it's about enforcement and they feel like they are criminalised, they feel that they have been held back. They feel that there's one law for the major multi-national operators and a different law for the smaller, medium-sized fishermen and it's really remarkable. I think you need a root-and-branch reform of the Department of the Marine, of the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority, of every single agency that operates under the auspices of the Department of the Marine, including the Department itself, needs a root-and-branch reform urgently to make it fit-for-purpose and to get the balance right between developing the potential for our coastal communities and, of course, that there are fair rules for all. Nobody objects to that. But the balance is totally wrong at the moment.

Q: There is a review going on in the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority at the moment, we understand. There is not much known about this, we don't know when or if it will be published, or what the recommendations are likely to be. Why is that?

PMacL: We need to get those recommendations published as soon as possible.

I have an understanding that these findings will be sober, there will be a need for big changes in that organisation. We need accountability. We need consistency. We need recourse to genuinely appeal decisions, so I am looking forward to that review being published. It's an opportunity to deal with the wider issues under the umbrella of the Department of the Marine. I have to say I am deeply alarmed.

The more conversations I have with fishermen the more clear I am of the urgent need for change.



Greencastle

Cork Scientists Making Sure That Cockles Survive

Though they are more connected with Dublin, certainly in song through “cockles and mussels,” the future survival of cockles depends on a greater consistency in the study of the shellfish and how this research is communicated to the fishing industry, according to scientists at University College Cork.



Cockles are a well-known shellfish across Europe. It is a species valued for its meat, cultural symbolism and ecological value. Records of cockles can be found throughout history, from a wide range of sources including museums, scientific works and fisheries records. However, scientists involved in the collaborative Europe-wide ‘COCKLES’ project say they are concerned about the lack of focus of the previous work conducted. This is particularly worrisome, according to the scientific researchers, as an understanding of cockles’ past survival is essential in order to predict how species will fare in a future of climate change.

A study published in PLOS ONE (a peer-reviewed open access scientific journal published by the Public Library of Science since 2006) which was led by scientists at UCC examined a large volume of historical information about cockles. This data included locations of where they were found, and how many were there.

Lead author, Kate Mahony, of UCC’s School of BEES, AFDC, MaREI and Environmental Research Institute said that cockles were part of her childhood: “One of the first songs you learn here is about ‘Molly Malone’ who was selling cockles and mussels on the streets of Dublin. Because of the importance of the species, here and across Europe, I wasn’t surprised that we were able to gather large amounts of data. However, this data was gathered and reported in an inconsistent manner, highlighting the lack of focus on studying the historic and geographic trends of this species.”

Scientists compared cockle density (the amount of cockles in an area) with changing climate in the Atlantic and found that cockles were influenced by a wide range of parasites, temperature fluctuations and varying methods of fishing and legislation. The team also examined the sources of their information. Despite the large volume of data, large differences existed in data quality and methodology.

Co-author Dr Sharon Lynch explained: “What really stood out to us was the lack of communication between stakeholders such as scientists and fishery managers. We examined the sources of the data and found a large knowledge gap between researchers, and those that require this information practically”.

Many studies were aimed at scientists, resulting in the unsuccessful transfer of knowledge at the ground level. The team has led calls to start improved, knowledge based fisheries by standardising monitoring and creating an online portal to increase the knowledge transfer both locally and internationally. These steps will be vital in order to protect this emblematic species into the future.

NEWSMAKERS of the Month



Nicely Decorated in Dunmore East: The fisheries-themed mural on the wall of the SFPA Port Office in Dunmore East is a good way of emphasising the importance of the fishing industry to a local community. The Sea Fisheries Protection Authority and the Waterford Walls organisation which ran an art competition “to recognise and celebrate the region’s deep ties with the fishing industry” from which the mural emerged. Fifth Year Ardscoil na Mara Tramore student, Sarah Rogers, designed the winning entry and Waterford Walls artist Magda Karol brought the design to life on the wall in Dunmore, with the assistance of Sarah whose artistic prowess was encouraged by her teacher, Emily Campbell. Well done to all concerned.



The restored 1926-built Conor O’Brien-designed 56ft ketch ILEN has been on a sail through Ireland’s historic seaways, carrying cargo under sail between coastal communities despite the vagaries of the Irish weather and the demands of the ocean. Project Director and skipper Gary Mac Mahon and his crew completed a series of sea passages to ports in Cork, Kerry, Limerick, the Shannon Estuary and the Aran Islands, delivering cargoes of food and drink and consignments of quality items from artisan producers, Red Strand Coffee, West Cork Whiskey, Cape Clear Gin, Thomond Red Ale, Limerick Rigney’s famous ham and bacon and best jam from Kilrush. Photo shows on the Aran Islands Aonghus Mullen at Kilronan takes the delivery from Gary McMahon on ILEN.



The media has been full of images on the mass stranding of long-finned pilot whales in Australia. The IWDG had its biggest media event when seven bottlenose whales live stranded and died in Rosstown, Co Donegal. Some of the feedback was negative accusing IWDG of doing nothing and not saving the whales, but most was realistic and appreciated IWDG efforts and the fact that there was little to be done to “save” them. Pictured: Northern Bottlenose Whale Rosstown © Simon Berrow - see page 24 for more on this by the IWDG

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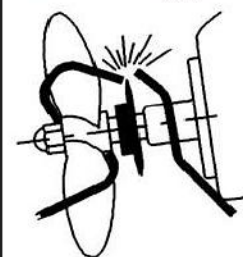
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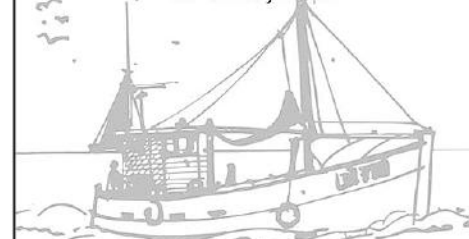
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Safety Report Says Coast Guard Is “Undergoing Significant Reform”

SAR National Committee wants to ensure difference between Search-and-Rescue and Search-and-Recovery is “more explicit”

Report by Tom MacSweeney

The first Annual National Search and Rescue Plan has been published by the National SAR Committee. The 35-page document details progress on the implementation of the plan and of recommendations emanating from the review of the Irish SAR system. That had followed investigations into accidents during search-and-rescue, including the deaths of one helicopter crew and issues of governance and oversight of the system.

It says that the Coast Guard, as the principal SAR responder is undergoing significant reform following the fatal accidents in Kilkee (death of volunteer Catriona Lucas) and Blacksod (death of Rescue 116 helicopter crew).

In its report on the fatal accident in Kilkee in September 2016, the Marine Casualty Investigation Board made various recommendations. The report says that “two to the Minister have been addressed” as part of the SAR report.

The detailed document notes that, while satisfactory progress is being made, not all of the recommendations have yet been implemented.

“The IRCG (Coast Guard) has undertaken an extensive work programme to implement MCIB recommendations. The NSP (National Search and Rescue Plan) seeks to make the delineation between search-and-recovery and search-and-rescue missions more explicit for all concerned, thereby addressing a principal recommendation in the MCIB Report. This Issue is further addressed and operationalised through the relevant IRCG SOP (Standard Operating Procedure).

“IRCG has undertaken an extensive

review of the relevant SOP (in consultation with AGS (An Garda Síochána) and has revised it to include guidance on the risk assessment criteria to be applied and how the decision-making process is to be recorded. “The new elements in this guidance and the relevant SOP need to be operationalised, and there have been a number of incidents over the last year where they have been tested. In line with the NSP Assurance mechanism, these incidents have been the subject of review by the IRCG and AGS. Any lessons learnt will be identified and addressed through the

MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) arrangements between the IRCG and AGS (An Garda Síochána).

“A second key recommendation arising from the MCIB report is the implementation of a comprehensive Safety Management System to address the safety management issues identified in the report. “This work is well underway.

“It was recommended that all vessels operated by the IRCG should comply with the statutory requirements of the Merchant Shipping Acts (MSAs), including crew qualifications. Progress towards IRCG compliance with the requirements of MSAs has continued. An independent survey and gap analysis of IRCG boats against MSA requirements was completed 21st May 2019 to identify immediate areas to be addressed. Discussions with the Marine Survey Office, including preliminary surveys of IRCG boats, have been carried out to determine a route to bring rescue boats under the passenger boat licencing regime. Crew training courses have been updated to align with MSA requirements. This work is continuing towards crew certification in line with passenger boat licence requirements.”

The report says that, in reviewing the Coast Guard’s “organisational culture, governance and structures” the IRCG has partnered with the ‘Great Place To Work (GPTW) Institute’ to jointly develop and launch an engagement strategy called the ‘Trust Index & Culture Assessment’ (TCA) campaign, applicable equally to all personnel and specifically designed to solicit their personal perspectives in support of the reform programme.

“Combining the feedback from both Volunteer and Full Time Personnel, 67% of those surveyed expressed Medium to High

“In recognition of the Irish Coast Guard’s commitment to introduce change for the benefit of its members and for its continued services to the State, the IRCG were presented with the ‘Spirit of Ireland’ Award at the Great Place to Work Ireland 2020 Awards.

“Project deliverables now achieved include the development and implementation of the IRCG Safety Policy, the IRCG Mission Statement, the IRCG Values Statement (and communications campaign), the IRCG Risk Management procedure, the IRCG internal audit programme and the IRCG Oversight & Assurance structure.”

The SAR Consultative Committee has identified priorities to further develop:

- Incident Management (interagency), ensuring clarity and a common approach through facilitating close collaboration in exercising; Clarity of roles and responsibilities, guidance and decision-making in Search and Recovery operations involving the Land SAR Coordinator (AGS), along with the management of public and/or third party interventions;
- Proactive sharing of information, best practice and new initiatives to enhance both SAR delivery and incident prevention
- Potential issues for SAR arising from Brexit – including “regulatory divergence”.

The Coast Guard is part of the Depart-

Ireland's National Search and Rescue Plan
First Annual Report July 2020



The nationwide network of Volunteer Coast Guard Units is an integral part of the national search and rescue system. With a total membership of 940 Volunteers, these Units deliver rescue boat, cliff rescue and shoreline search services coupled with a capacity to support their communities during local emergencies including extreme weather. Ireland's 45 Coast Guard Units were tasked on a total of 1,354 occasions throughout 2019, an average of 30 taskings per Unit.

Trust in the organisation. The campaign has also equipped IRCG Managers with the information required to identify where specifically in their areas of responsibility IRCG members may be encountering significant issues with the wider organisation. This includes directly asking team members ‘why’ and seeking opportunities to leverage learning from those sections and units in which the leadership, structures and systems of the organisation are perceived to be delivering more effectively.

ment of Transport of Ireland where Minister of State Hildegard Naughton said the SAR Report showed good implementation progress and “is a strong endorsement of the commitment and dedication of all those involved in Search and Rescue in Ireland – Volunteers and Staff.

“It is clear that there is a genuine determination at all levels to ensure we learned the lessons from the past and make sure that Ireland’s SAR system is world-class in all its aspects.”

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RNLI REPORT

Niamh Stephenson, the RNLI's Public Affairs Manager, reflects on the difficulties and challenges posed by Covid-19 and lockdowns on the RNLI.

Facing One of the Biggest Challenges to the RNLI

As I write, we are still dealing with Covid-19 and it looks like we will be for some time to come. During lockdown the RNLI closed lifeboat stations to the public and for all but essential operational activity. We also ceased training and face-to-face fundraising. As our Lifesaving Manager, Sean Dillon, observed in his message to our volunteers and staff: "For an organisation whose purpose is to save lives, whose strength is in its people and whose survival is reliant on the generosity of our communities to fund our lifesaving work, this has been one of our biggest challenges. Going from a lockdown into an incredibly busy season, carried out under strict Government guidelines and with PPE as standard, we have risen to a new challenge and changed our ways of working; all the while continuing to save lives."

However, our lifesavers aren't immune from what is happening. The RNLI in following the public health guidelines had to temporarily take a lifeboat station off service due to a positive case of Covid-19. We moved quickly and were able to inform the Coast Guard and our search and rescue colleagues and followed the HSE instructions. Our priority is always for the safety of our lifeboat crew and we will not put them or the public at risk. Speaking with the Coxswain, his thoughts were immediately that the community and seafarers would know and take care on the water. Along with the Area Lifesaving Manager, he looked after his crew and worked to be ready to get back on call. While we go through this together there may be times where the RNLI will have to react and adapt to circumstances, but we will always carry out our duties while following public health guidance and keep our people safe.

Only Woman Coxswain

The good news is that life, although different, does continue for our lifeboat crews. We have a new appointment that highlights the role of women in search-

and-rescue. Denise Lynch, a volunteer lifeboat crew member with Fenit RNLI in Kerry, has been passed out as a RNLI Coxswain. She is currently the only woman to hold the senior position on an operational lifeboat crew in Ireland. Denise began as a volunteer in 2001 and has served on both Fenit RNLI's inshore and all-weather lifeboats.

She became interested in lifeboats as a primary school student when her class visited the lifeboat station on a school trip. From a prominent fishing family in Fenit, as a child, she knew and looked up to the lifeboat Coxswain and she decided that when she was old enough, she would join the lifeboat crew. The middle of six children, Denise (37) is the only one of her family to be on the lifeboat.

While she is currently the only female Coxswain on operational lifeboat crew in Ireland, Helena Duggan, one of the RNLI's Assessor Trainers is also a Coxswain and Ireland currently has 155 operational female lifeboat crew. The charity is always looking to recruit more volunteers, both female and male, in a variety of sea-going and station roles and Denise is keen to encourage others to follow in her foot-



Denise Lynch, Fenit RNLI currently the only woman coxswain in Ireland.

steps. Asked what advice she would have for other women who might be interested in becoming lifeboat crew, Denise Said: "I'd say go for it. It's no big deal to my male colleagues on the lifeboat crew that a woman is in this role, because they know me, and they've been to sea with me in all weathers and I trust and respect them too. They know I can do the job and they know I'm there for them, whatever happens."

Crews Busy

Our lifeboat crews remain busy. This year so far the RNLI has saved thirteen lives and brought hundreds of people to safety. Some of the shouts can get lost as news moves fast. In one weekend in September the volunteer crew of Bundoran RNLI was requested to attend three separate incidents between Saturday afternoon and Sunday lunchtime. Three people caught in a rip current at Bundoran's Main Beach, reports of a person having fallen off a horse and injuring themselves and finally assisting a jet-skier. Dun Laoghaire RNLI have also seen their callouts dramatically increase. The Dublin station is located in a busy area with a huge catchment. One recent callout saw swift action by the crew save the life of a swimmer after a member of the public reported them in difficulty off Blackrock. The Helm Nathan Burke had been at the lifeboat station doing routine equipment checks when two further crew members, Andrew Sykes and Ronan Adams, arrived minutes later. On arrival the crew quickly saw the person in trouble and immediately pulled them from the water and not a moment too soon. In West Cork Baltimore RNLI provided three medical evacuations within a 48 hour period.

Fundraising Goes Online

All of this is only possible through the generosity of the public. We've had to move fundraising online and it's been a challenge for our fundraisers who love getting out and about for collection days and events. The RNLI's Fish Supper fundraising is one of our campaigns that is now going online, and we need help to spread the word and get people involved. We want people to sign up to host a Fish Supper in October to raise vital funds. With restrictions in place due to the pandemic, this year's Fish Supper events may be a bit different, but we want people to host their Fish Supper online if they can't be held in person.

As usual we have some great support from many of our favourite chefs, e.g., Derry Clarke, Niall Sabongi and Declan McManus have all given the RNLI some of their favourite fish recipes to try at home. Derry has even donned his lifeboat t-shirt to cook them onboard his boat so you can follow along and these are online at the RNLI Fish Supper website. To sign up to host your own Fish Supper, and to find a load of fantastic recipes from some top celebrity chefs, visit: RNLI.org/Fish

Thanks to everyone for your support during this time. Our lifesavers feel it and are grateful for it. The RNLI continues as a 24/7 search and rescue service, as it has for almost 200 years. They've seen a lot during that time, and this too shall pass.

Spreading the Water Safety Message in Different Languages

from JOAN CLANCY, Acting Hon Press Sec., RNLI Dungarvan & Helvick Fundraising Branch

RNLI Lifeboats and the Irish Refugee Council have partnered to spread the water safety message through different languages to Ireland's immigrant community about how to stay safe on beaches and to teach swimmers about rip currents and tides on Irish coasts.



RNLI Helvick - Nicky Hannigan, DLA & Austin Flynn, Safety Officer. Photo - Connie Kiersey

"This follows two incidents during the summer. On the same day in June a group of two adults and four children without lifejackets drifted out a good 2kms. from Clonea beach in Co Waterford on three small inflatables and a father and his daughter got into trouble on an inflatable raft off the coast of Donegal" said RNLI Helvick Lifeboat Station DLA Nick Hannigan.

When RNLI Water Safety Delivery Support Officer Lisa Hollingum was informed of these incidents involving Arabic speakers she contacted the IRC who agreed to help translate messaging and disperse safety posters through their networks.

"People who have moved to Ireland from countries that are landlocked may not have experience of tidal waters or rip currents. On a hot, sunny day, the water never looks threatening but the rip currents are always there. There are always hidden dangers" she warned. "We're concerned for 'at risk' groups. Ideally we'd like some of them to become part of the RNLI as it would be a way of getting the message out to a more diverse group."

I am your Lifejacket.
When we are on the water,
I will make you feel safe.
And when we are in the water,
I will keep you alive.
I will stop you from panicking.
I will keep you afloat.
Even in rough weather.
Even if you are unconscious,
I will support and protect you
until help arrives.
All this I will do for you
if you do one thing for me.
Please, put me on.



A charity registered in England and Wales (214421) and Scotland (SC017041).
Charity number 214421 (England and Wales) / SC017041 (Scotland)



news from **Howth** Tracey Floyd

S.I. No. 333 of 2020

The first day of September has seen the SI No. 333 of 2020 signed by Eamon Ryan, Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport. In brief it refers to aspects of November 16th 2019 ILO c188.

It specifically refers to the Designation of the Competent Authority – which is as it should be the Marine Survey Office for search and rescue purposes in the event of accident or incident.

Under the S.I. Skippers / Owners have a responsibility to leave a full crew-list

ashore prior to each departure. This crew list should be made available to the Irish Coast Guard or An Garda Síochána.

Also required within the S.I. is the requirement for individual Crew Agreements in which the minimum requirements are set out in sections 6 and 7 (page 5)

Records of work, dispute resolution, authorised officers, notice of detention, directions, appeal and offences are also covered within this document and it would be wise to familiarise yourself with its contents prior to coming a cropper of it.

Skippers Mate Pro

With enormous thanks to Bord Iascaigh Mhara and the EMFF for both their faith and funding, Dorans Skippers Mate are very excited to announce the launch for testing of Skippers Mate Pro.

Skippers Mate Pro is a simple technical solution to the requirements found under the Work Time Directive, the ILO c188 and even the above mentioned S.I 333 and more.

The system itself has been designed from within the Irish Fishing Industry with full collaboration with Irish Owners, Skippers and Crew along with insights from the Marine Survey Office and Marine Solicitor Dermot Conway as to best practices and requirements.

The system will work on a dual platform which includes both app and desktop access and includes many reporting facilities including crew lists as per the S.I 333. All aspects of this system are fully GDPR compliant.

The goal of the system has been to manage the many and varied aspects of the multiple pieces of the legislation which

applies to the industry. Solutions in the simplest way possible, while still achieving a credibility within the judiciary system, should issues arise. This includes a digital signature. The system is also currently available in five languages.

Over the last number of years the Irish Fishing Industry has received hit after hit to the reputation off all those working within her. National news headlines claiming human trafficking allegations and abuse of vulnerable migrant workers, have left us all feeling vulnerable and abused.

Unfortunately we have seen too many falling foul of these allegations, while using the current working systems in terms of paper records regarding the work time directive and other legislative requirements not being accepted by the judiciary.

This lack of credibility of paper based records and the resulting one word against



Ted Dixon with Roísín in Howth - Photo by Phil Hanlon

another scenario, continues to result in an opportunity for those wishing to bring cases containing spurious claims and a manipulation of truth and makes it virtually impossible to defend yourself in a legal situation. The burden of proof lies with you as an owner regardless of how ridiculous, insulting or hurtful the claim.

The upshot is wildly large and inappropriate pay-outs from judgments against vessel owners due to inadequate methods available to disprove claims of 22 hour working days 365 days a year.

These are the type of issues that this system endeavours to eliminate and hopes to give the industry the ability to be pro-active and have some control over its own destiny by providing an easy way to show and prove, high level compliance. We feel that this system could potentially be a "Game Changer" for the Irish Fishing Industry. Offering not only compliance but also a one stop shop for the notification of crew and vessel, document, servicing, equipment expiry dates.

Along with code of compliance Survey preparation and WRC Inspections. This

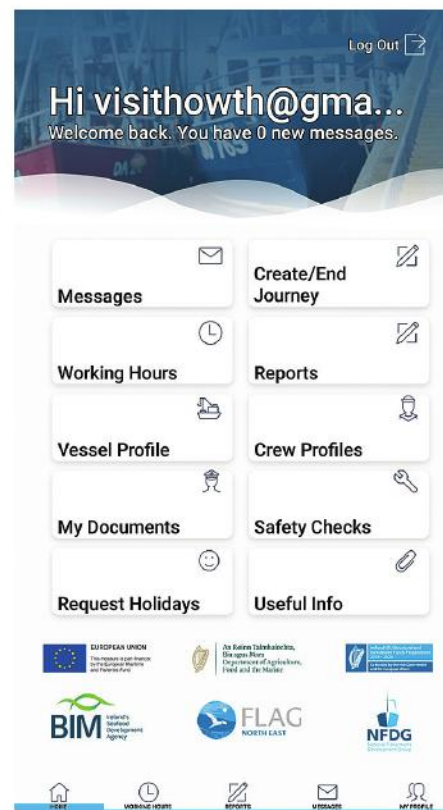
system even has separate reporting systems for the various agencies such as the Marine Survey Office and the Work Relations Commission in line with their responsibilities under the different pieces of legislation that they are responsible for.

Also included along with these legislative aspects are other areas that we feel may assist with insurance premiums and it is all designed to be used as simply as facebook.

Another plus for this system is a facility to be used by office administration, this we hope will eliminate the need for owners to continually remember to share information manually with shore based staff and as such remove some frustration and discrepancies, which ultimately cause problems down the road.

In short we have attempted to create one simple system that will make everyone's life a lot easier

After many months of work, the system is only currently at a testing stage and is right now being worked with by participating vessels. All going well, we hope to be in a position to launch in the coming weeks, so watch this space!



DORANS Skippers Mate

Giving Skippers Peace of Mind

With an ever growing list of rules and regulation, fishing vessel owners and skippers are finding it more time consuming and complex to adhere to the many rules and regulations covering fishing vessels and their crews.

Doran's are offering a service to assist skippers in complying with these regulations and to give them a "Go to Person" to act as a buffer between the MSO, SFP, HSA and BIM etc. Talk to us today for a no obligation assessment.

Contact us to learn of our extensive range of services - Let us be your "Go to Person" to ease the burden on busy Skippers and Owners.

Contact - Tracey Floyd Mobile: 00353-(0)862752784
e-mail: doransskippersmate@gmail.com

Website: www.doransskippersmate.wix.com/doransskippersmate

Let us help you and your crew stay safe at sea

International Fishing and Maritime News

Climate Changes Caused by Humans Threatens Aquaculture Says World Society

Aquaculture, freshwater and marine, employs over 21 million people worldwide and provides 46 percent of global fish and seafood production and 52 percent of fish and seafood for human consumption, according to the World Aquaculture Society. It has warned that “the impacts of human-caused climate change on production systems threaten this vital source of food security.”

110 aquatic scientific societies, representing over 80,000 scientists, have signed a statement by the American Fisheries Society. With the title “Statement of World Aquatic Scientific Societies on the need to take urgent action against human-caused climate change, based on scientific evidence.”

Freshwater fish stocks are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change according to the American Fisheries Society.

“Swift and resolute action by governments and by individuals to reduce emissions is essential to halt irreversible impacts to freshwater and marine ecosystems, fish and fisheries from climate change. We must act now to safeguard our drinking water, food supplies, and human health and well-being. These grim predictions for the world’s aquatic ecosystems are not just theoretical. They are affecting us now and failure to act will imperil future generations,” said the President of the AFS, Scott Bonar.

The World Aquaculture Society is amongst the signatories to the AFS statement, saying it “appreciates the opportunity to team with other aquatic scientific societies in support of this initiative. Aquaculture’s ability to help alleviate the world’s need for quality protein sources is threatened by climate change.

Global aquaculture production (including aquatic plants) in 2018 was 114.5 million tonnes, with the first-sale value estimated at \$250 billion (€211 million). UN-FAO statistics indicate that 20.5 million people were engaged in the aquaculture sector in 2018. Food/fish production occurs in both inland, freshwater systems (62 percent) and marine environments (38 percent).

“Freshwater ecosystems are among the most threatened on Earth. Their capacity to adapt is relatively low given the nature of freshwater systems and the scale of impacts of climate change,” according to the World Aquaculture Society. “Climate change, along with excess nutrient input and deteriorating coastal ecosystems, also threatens marine aquaculture production.”

ANTARCTIC

Unstable Glacier Sliding Into Ocean

British Antarctic Survey scientists have reported that one of the largest, most

unstable glaciers in Antarctica is sliding into the ocean due to hidden rivers of warm water that lubricate its underbelly. This is happening more so now than ever in the era of climate change. The scientists used equipment that can measure fluctuations in gravity, radar and seismic waves to map where these glacier-melting channels cut through the deep seabed. Hidden beneath the ice shelf, they are deeper than expected, some are more than 800 metres (2,600 feet) deep,” according to the head of the research team, Tom Jordan, an aero-geophysicist with the Antarctic Survey.



British Survey ship RV Nathaniel B Palmer in the Antarctic. Photo - British Antarctic Survey

“They form the critical link between the ocean and the glacier, Thwaites Glacier, a vast brick of ice flowing into Pine Island Bay in Western Antarctica. This Glacier has moved toward the ocean its entire existence, but that rate of motion has increased five-fold over the last 30 years, to the point where snowfall at the rear of the glacier can no longer replenish ice lost in the front. That lost ice has contributed to about 4% of global sea level rise over those three decades. If the entire glacier were to collapse into the ocean, sea levels would increase by about 25 inches (65 centimetres). This dramatic increase could devastate coastlines, so scientists are trying to understand the dynamics driving Thwaites’ seaward motion and how fast these processes are accelerating the melt.

USA

Research Shows That Warming Oceans Will Change Fish Locations

Because warmer waters, predicted under climate change, will contain less oxygen, there could be major changes in where a wide variety of marine species, from vertebrates to crustaceans to molluscs will inhabit in the future. This is because the widest variety of species live where the oceans are most breathable, according to new research funded by three major organisations in the USA, State and independent.

They are: the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an American scientific agency within the United States Department of Commerce which focuses on the conditions of the oceans, major waterways and the atmosphere; the National Science Foundation an “independent agency of the United States government”, that supports fundamental research and education and the ‘Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation’ which was established by Intel co-founder Gordon E. Moore and his wife Betty in September 2000 to support scientific discovery, environmental conservation.

The purpose of this research project is to predict how marine species - from fish with back bones to jellyfish, which have no spines, will react to warming oceans.

“Temperature alone does not explain where in the ocean species can live,” according to the scientist leading the research team, Curtis Deutsch, Associate Professor of Oceanography at the University of Washington. “Oxygen must be considered – how much of it is in the water, how well an organism can take up and utilise it, and how temperature affects these processes. Oxygen levels and water temperature combine to determine which parts of the ocean are breathable for different ocean-dwelling creatures. This research shows that a wide variety of marine animals -- from vertebrates to crustaceans to mollusks -- already inhabit the maximum range of breathable ocean that their physiology will allow.”

So there is a clear warning about climate change in the research, published late last month, that warmer waters will have less oxygen, so some stretches of ocean that are breathable today for a given species may not be in the future.

“Organisms today are basically living right up to the warmest temperatures possible that will supply them with adequate oxygen for their activity level, so higher temperatures are going to immediately affect their ability to get enough oxygen,” said Deutsch. “In response to warming, their activity level is going to be restricted or their habitat is going to start shrinking.”

ICELAND

Salmon Applications Stuck In Administrative Jungle



Ireland’s problem in dealing with aquaculture licensing has a somewhat similar problem in Iceland the Independence Party has complained in Iceland’s Parliament that around 40 licences for aquaculture operations are still awaiting approval, the oldest going back to 2015. The party has also stated that applications for fish processing have been held up. Sport fishing representative groups have opposed many salmon farming applications.

SOUTH KOREA

Largest Fishing Group Going Into Aquaculture



Dongwon Industries, South Korea’s largest fishing group is linking up with Norway’s Salmon Evolution group to build what it says will be “a large environmentally land-based smart salmon farm in Yangyang County in the province of Gangwon. Dongwon is investing in aquaculture to use its advanced technology. Work is expected to start within the next few months and, when completed, at a cost of €142 million, the project will be capable of producing up to 20,000 tonnes of salmon a year. The location is in North/East South Korea, bordering the Sea of Japan and North Korea.

UK

Husband and Wife Successfully Frozen for 20 Years!



A British fish company which has put strong emphasis on frozen product has marked twenty years in business. The Grimsby-based salmon supplier, JCS Fish, was founded by husband-and-wife, Andrew and Louise Coulbeck, in September 2000. Turnover has passed stg£10-million and has a staff of 50. A retail brand, BigFish, was launched in 2009, plain and flavoured salmon fillets, followed by breaded salmon bites, fish cakes and, most recently, smoked products. BigFish has won 25 individual product awards to date. The company has a new smokehouse which opened in 2019, moved into organic salmon and has put a strong emphasis on frozen product “a strategy which has proven particularly effective with retail sales of frozen fish estimated to be up more than 11% this year,” it says.

NORWAY

Big Drop in Exports to China

China, which had been the largest growth market for Norwegian seafood exports, have dropped sharply in recent months. Salmon exports alone to China fell by 69 per cent when compared to August last year, according to figures issued. Other types of seafood have suffered almost as much. Seafood sales to China in August totalled 7,600 tonnes and were worth NOK 214 million (€186m.). This is a volume decrease of 43 per cent and a drop in value of 54 per cent. By contrast, sales to France have increased by 20 per cent, particularly for home consumption.

Out of the Blue - Bluemouth Rockfish Captured in the Irish Sea off Howth

During early September 2020, the MFV 'Atlantic Freedom' (S78) [Skipper: Peter Lynch] captured a Bluemouth Rockfish *Helicolenus dactylopterus* in a lobster pot in the Irish Sea off Howth, Co Dublin. The specimen was landed into Howth where it was weighed (386 g), measured (293 mm), and photographed, prior to being released alive.



Bluemouth Rockfish captured by the 'Atlantic Freedom' in the Irish Sea off Howth

Although Bluemouth Rockfish are common in deep offshore waters along the west coast of Ireland, there are only two previous records from the Irish Sea. The first specimen, measuring 175 mm was captured in a trawl off Bradda Head, NW of Port Erin, Isle of Man during July 1966. Two decades later, a second specimen weighing 670 g and measuring 325 mm, was captured on rod and line by Mr W. Moore (Carrickfergus) off 'The Maidens', Co Antrim during June 1987.

The Bluemouth is a widespread bathy-demersal species, inhabiting continental shelves and upper slopes at depths of 50-1100m. In the Western Atlantic it extends from Nova Scotia (Canada) southwards to Venezuela. In the Eastern Atlantic it extends southwards from Iceland and Norway to the Mediterranean and South Africa. The species gets its name from the distinctive black/blue colouration of its mouth cavity and peritoneum.

Bluemouth Rockfish are slow-growing (maximum length 470 mm @ 43 years of age) and late maturing (males mature @ 260 mm & 15-16 years of age, and females @ 230 mm & 13 years). Based on its length, the current specimen was an

adult, probably 25-30 years old, and most likely living a rather isolated life off Howth since the early 1990s (1990-95). Indeed, it is interesting to note that there was a major influx of Bluemouth Rockfish into the northern North Sea during the same period, so it is possible that the Howth specimen may represent one of the few remaining stragglers from that exceptional cohort.

Since the mid-1990s, a growing number of pioneering anglers have been targeting Bluemouth Rockfish near offshore sea-mounts and reefs at depths of 100-200 m off the SW and NW coasts of Ireland. The Irish rod & line record, weighing 1.32 kg, was captured by Sue Tait off Caherciveen (Co Cork) during July 2008. The UK rod & line record, weighing 1.431 kg, was captured off Loch Shell, Stornoway (Outer Hebrides, Scotland) during 1976. The IGFA World Record, weighing 2.35kg, was captured off Norfolk Canyon (Virginia, USA) during February 2009.

Declan is interested in receiving reports of further Bluemouth Rockfish from the Irish Sea. He can be contacted at 087-6458485 or email declanquigley@eircom.net



Ardglass harbour - Photo by C Feenan

Tipping the Scales.....

Morgan's Fine Fish Launch Healthy 'Ready to Cook' Seafood Meals

Morgan's Seafood Kitchen, an exciting new range of delicious healthy 'ready to cook' meals, was officially launched with the help of entrepreneur and qualified weight management expert Karen Daly.



Pictured at the launch of Morgan's Seafood Kitchen, an exciting new range of delicious low fat 'ready to cook' seafood meals are Gillian Morgan, R&D Product Developer, Morgan's Fine Fish with entrepreneur and qualified weight management expert Karen Daly of The Academy Masterplan

The innovative new range developed by Morgan's Fine Fish, one of Ireland's longest established seafood suppliers, meets the ever growing demand for quick, easy to cook nutritious meals for people on the go.

Gillian Morgan, R&D Product Developer at Morgan's Fine Fish explains the benefits of the range; 'From the outset, we wanted to develop an authentic and exciting seafood product with clean label ingredients. We wanted to make it easier for customers, who may not have the time to prepare and cook fish, to enjoy a nutritious seafood meal in minutes. Seafood is our business and has been for 150 years. We drew from our extensive experience and developed a range that is a natural source of high protein, low in fat, has no artificial additives or flavourings and most importantly, tastes delicious'.

Faced with the challenges of promoting a new product instore due to ongoing COVID restrictions, Morgan's Fine Fish were keen to partner with an advocate for healthy eating to help promote the range and Karen Daly, owner and founder of The Academy Masterplan was the perfect fit.

Karen decided to start The Academy Masterplan in 2015 on foot of her own four stone weight loss journey. Her online weight management business has successfully grown as has her loyal following on social media. Karen was already getting attention for her practical weight loss approach appearing on RTE's Dragon's Den and on RTE's Strictly Business programme. Karen hosts live cookery demos and workouts as well as education, motivation and support to the homes of thousands in Ireland and the UK as well as the USA, Canada, Qatar and even Australia!

'I am honoured to take on the role of brand ambassador for Morgan's Seafood Kitchen. I teach people how to eat better not less. I have always encouraged people to eat more fish but I know many people avoid cooking it at home. Morgan's Seafood Kitchen is the perfect solution. Cooked from raw in as little as four minutes, the meals are the ultimate healthy fast food! They taste amazing! The Caribbean prawn meal is my favourite and if you like spicy food you will love this one!'

Morgan's Seafood Kitchen includes three delicious meals to choose from: Katsu Fish Curry, Spicy Lemongrass and Lime Seafood and Caribbean Prawns. Priced at €4.99, each meal contains prime pieces of fish or prawns with fresh locally sourced vegetables from Country Fresh in Co.

Louth, basmati rice and a delicious sauce. The range is packaged in the latest recyclable 'Evolve' trays.

Morgan's Seafood Kitchen is available next to the fishmonger

counter in the following Dunnes Stores: Dublin (Cornelscourt and the Pavilion Shopping Centre); Limerick (Jetland Shopping Centre and Childers Road) and Louth (The Marshes Shopping Centre, Dundalk). The range is also available from Morgan's Fine Fish shop in Omeath, Co. Louth.

So whether you are looking for a healthy but delicious alternative to your usual Friday night takeaway or you want to include more seafood in your diet, this range is the perfect choice.

To find out more about Morgan's Seafood Kitchen and for live cookery demos and updates from Karen Daly, make sure to follow @morgansseafoodkitchen and @mydalymasterplan on Instagram.





IRISH WHALE AND DOLPHIN GROUP IWDG NEWS

"The most likely cause of recent whale strandings is active sonar used by some navies searching for submarines."

What Are Live Strandings of Deep-Diving Offshore Whales Telling Us?

Dr. Simon Berrow, Chief Executive of the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group discusses the issue

The media has been full of images on the mass stranding of long-finned pilot whales in Australia. The IWDG had its biggest media event when seven bottlenose whales live stranded and died in Rosstown, Co. Donegal. Some of the feedback was negative accusing IWDG of doing nothing and not saving the whales, but most was realistic and appreciated IWDG efforts and the fact that there was little to be done to "save" them.

Most strandings in Ireland are dead with only 5%, around 20-30 alive each year, when found. Most are single individuals, typically dolphins, though larger whales do occasionally live strand. Mass strandings are more unusual but do occur regularly enough and often in the same areas, with hotspots in north Kerry and west Mayo. These areas are characterised by gentle sloping, sandy beaches and maybe groups of whales just can't navigate until it's too late. This may explain where they strand but not why they strand.

There are many reasons and the IWDG consider, the species, location, group size and pattern of stranding before jumping to any conclusions and calling an event "unusual". We share images and information on social media to inform both the public and managers but also to share with colleagues abroad to see if "our" stranding is part of a bigger event. This event in Donegal was not isolated. Bottlenose whales live stranded in the Faroes the day before, and were killed for human consumption. Two bottlenose whales swam into Greenock Harbour, two more were seen off Norfolk in the North Sea and two were seen and subsequently died in the Netherlands. All strange occurrences, but were they linked?

Clearly in the case of the bottlenose whales in Rosstown we soon realised that the best cause of action was to do nothing. Bottlenose whales are deep-diving offshore species which typically live in water greater than 2000m in depth. The nearest habitat for these whales would be over 100 nmls to the west, so even if we could re-float them it is unlikely they could have survived in the shallow waters of Donegal Bay or coast. Should we have euthanized them? Possibly but we don't currently have the means to humanely kill such large animals. How would you re-float a 7m, 2-3 tonne animal, without damaging or greatly stressing it? If you can't re-float them all, should you only re-float some members of the group given that we think these species live in close social groups and might not leave family

members if lying dying on the beach? Whales and dolphins have live stranded for thousands of years but why are these events increasing. We know too little about the lives of these whales to understand why these events occur but clearly these strandings can provide a wonderful opportunity to learn more.



Live strandings of deep-diving species, usually found in deep offshore waters are getting more frequent in Ireland and around the world. In 2018 an unprecedented number of Cuvier's beaked

whales were washed up in August on coasts from Galway to Donegal. Sowerby's beaked whales have live stranded and died in Wicklow and Waterford in the past two years. These were both recovered for full post-mortems but it was not clear what had killed them. What are these events telling us? Is this reflecting profound changes in our offshore waters and these strandings are just a signal of what's going on beyond the horizon. Our marine mammal pathology colleagues around the world recommend that mass strandings of deep-diving species are typically related to acoustic trauma.

Acoustic trauma is very difficult to diagnose. There are natural causes of intense underwater sounds such as underwater volcanoes but most are associated with human activities. Seismic surveys make very loud intense sounds for weeks at a time and are known to displace whales and dolphins from the survey areas. The most insidious sources of intense acute sound is active sonar used by some navies for searching for submarines.

This is the most likely cause of recent strandings especially when they occur over a wider geographical area. Dialogue with foreign navies operating in Irish waters is not going to be easy but if we want to live up to our responsibilities and avoid more and more traumatic live stranding events this is what is required to understand why we are witnessing more and more traumatic events on ours and other beaches around the world.

IWDG website: www.iwdg.ie



BirdWatchIreland
protecting birds and biodiversity

The Longest Distance Migrant in the World Never Sees Winter

Rockabill is actually a group of two islands - "The Rock" and "The Bill" - off Skerries on the Dublin coastline. It is home to the world's longest-distance migrants who see more daylight than any other creature on the planet and never experience Winter. Niall Hatch, Development Officer at BirdWatch Ireland, tells the fascinating story of a seabirds project on Rockabill which is supported by the Commissioners of Irish Lights and the National Parks and Wildlife Service with funding assistance from the EU LIFE Programme. Poolbeg Yacht Club and the ESB have also assisted the project.

With the Summer now behind us, it's time to give an update on how the Terns, perhaps Ireland's most beautiful and graceful seabirds, have fared this year at the breeding colonies which BirdWatch Ireland manages for their conservation.

Ireland is home to five different species of Tern, namely Common, Arctic, Roseate, Sandwich and Little. All are strongly migratory, all have largely white bodies, long, pointed pale grey wings, black caps on their heads, sharp, pointed bills and forked tails. The best way to tell them apart is by bill colour.

The Roseate Tern, with its mainly black bill, ghostly pale plumage and long tail streamers, is the most elegant of all, for my money at least. It is also Europe's rarest breeding seabird, so we should take great pride in the fact that our Continent's largest colony is located on tiny Rockabill Island, off the coast of Skerries in North Co. Dublin. All Summer, as part of a project funded by the European Commission's LIFE programme and supported by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Commissioners of Irish Lights, three BirdWatch Ireland wardens isolated themselves on the island, as safe from COVID-19 as anyone in Ireland possibly could be.

Their job was to protect and monitor the Terns on the island and they certainly outdid themselves. A record high of 1,652 Roseate Tern pairs bred on the island this Summer, proving this site's global importance for this highly threatened and vulnerable seabird.

In addition, 1,753 pairs of Common Terns, distinguishable by their red bills with black tips, also nested on the island. An additional 600 pairs of these delightful birds also nested in Dublin Port, beneficiaries of the Dublin Bay Birds Project, which is funded by the Dublin Port Company. Special thanks must also go to the ESB and to Poolbeg Yacht Club for their assistance and support.

Rockabill is also home to a breeding colony of Arctic Terns, the world's longest-distance migrant. Rather than flying "simply" to West Africa for the Winter, as do our other Tern species, these world travellers go all the way to Antarctica, meaning that they experience two summers each year

and never encounter winter. They also see more daylight than any other creature on the planet.

Sadly, the Arctic Terns didn't fare as well as their other relatives on Rockabill. Just 41 pairs bred, which was disappointing. Numbers breeding on Dalkey Island and Lamb Island in South Co. Dublin increased, however, more than tripling this year to 51 pairs. It looks like all the hard work by BirdWatch Ireland's conservation team to rid the islands of rats and to install bam-

boo canes to prevent predatory gulls from approaching the tern nesting areas has really paid off.

Ireland's smallest, cutest Tern is the Little Tern, with its black-tipped yellow bill and white forehead blaze. The largest Irish

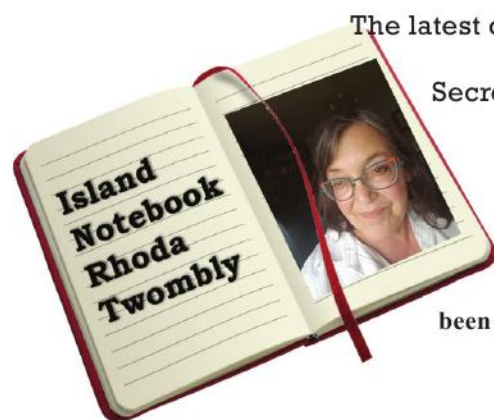
colony of this severely threatened species is found each year on Kilcoole Beach in Co. Wicklow, where BirdWatch Ireland wardens, funded by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, provide round-the-clock 'wardening,' literally 24 hours a day, for the entire Summer. Initially COVID-19 restrictions threatened the start of the project this year, but thankfully the work was able to proceed in a new, socially-distanced way. At least 285 chicks successfully hatched, providing a real boost to this vulnerable species.

There was less success this year at the Little Terns' other 'wardened' colony, on Portrane Beach in Co. Dublin. Issues with food provision by the adult birds resulted in fairly low survival rates for the chicks, but some birds at least did survive to fledge.

Ireland's largest species of Tern is the Sandwich Tern - named after the town of Sandwich in Kent, in case you were wondering - and its largest Irish colony is at Our Lady's Island Lake in Co. Wexford. Unlike our other Terns, Sandwich Terns have shaggy crests and black legs, and their yellow-tipped black bills are very distinctive if seen well. We don't have 2020 figures to hand for this colony, which is 'wardened' by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, just yet, but hope to provide an update soon.

- The Roseate Tern LIFE Project was included in this year's EU-wide Natura 2000 Awards list.





The latest developments on the offshore islands reported by Rhoda Twombly, Secretary Comhdháil Oileán na hÉireann, the Islands' Federation.

Minister Heather Humphreys announced that responsibility for offshore Islands has been formally transferred to the Department for Rural and Community Development.

The clarification of departmental responsibility is welcomed by Comhdháil as is Minister Humphreys' determination that: "The integration of the islands function under the remit of my Department will ensure a more integrated and cohesive approach to the development of rural and community policy for the people living on the islands and for their economies."

It was also announced that Chléire, Heir and Sherkin Islands in Cork, Inishbofin and Árainn (Inis Mór) in Galway and Árainn Mhór in Donegal will benefit from the allocation of €370,000 for islands works. This is in addition to €700,000 approved earlier this year under the small capital grants scheme which included some of the Mayo Islands.

Although adhering strictly to NPHEP protocols, an RNLI crewmember on Arranmore has tested positive for Covid-19.

This is probably the first confirmed case of the virus on the offshore islands and all of us wish the patient a rapid and thorough recovery. This highlights another facet of the impact of Covid on our islands. As this crew member was in contact with the rest of the crew, the Lifeboat had to be stepped down until testing of all members

is concluded and the vessel itself has been deep-cleaned. Additionally in this case, the local ambulance and volunteer fire service have stepped down due to contact as well as some local businesses. While the Arranmore RNLI is out of action, Islanders will be depending on RNLI service from other stations, the Coast Guard and mainland ambulance services.

Comhdháil Oileáin na hÉireann urges every Islander and all visitors to Islands to be mindful to follow the Covid-19 protective protocols and remember that not only are many island residents vulnerable but that the health and rescue services are already stretched without the added strain of Covid.

On a positive note, Arranmore-based IIMRO (Irish Islands Marine Resources Org) have achieved an award from the #InnovateTogether Fund from Rethink Ireland. This results from their work on the ABALOB Project which is finding ways to support island fishers. Covid has collapsed local fish markets and the technology developed allows small Island based fishers to supply traceable, sustainably caught seafood from Irish island communities directly to consumers. The partnership with

ABALOB will pilot a mobile app system on the offshore islands.

The presence of the virus has caused many urban dwellers to reconsider their lifestyle, reassess their values and future. Rural Ireland has seen a flood of people from urban areas "escape" to Air B&B's, holiday homes and hotels especially along the West coast.

Realising that remote working is not only possible but many times preferable, people will be looking to set up more permanent living arrangements in rural Ireland and hopefully on the islands. But with this comes challenges to infrastructure.

Recognising this, Comhdháil Oileáin na hÉireann is now focussing on housing availability as well as other roadblocks to sustainability. While some islands have carried out housing stock research, this needs to be done for all the islands as well as projected need into the future. Claire Kerrane TD asked a Dáil question recently regarding a housing needs analysis: this has been sent to the Minister for Housing for response. Housing is not the only challenge – the provision of broadband, while improved on some islands, is a long way from being universally stable or available.

At the recent Virtual Island Summit, a wide range of talks were given by Island scientists, economists, environmentalists, activists, politicians and business leaders from around the world.

Ireland's MEP Grace O'Sullivan of the Green Party spoke of the positive opportunities presented by the challenges of Covid. For example, further development of digital communications. She noted the appalling level of marine plastic pollution as well as the tragic increase of homelessness in many

countries. Never has there been a greater need for Smart Islands to tackle a myriad of challenges.

Included this year were hubs from several countries, including Ireland. Speaking about the Grassroots Wavelength Radio Project, of which Bere Island Community Radio and Cape Clear Radio are a part, Dr. Sarah Robinson highlighted the importance of local radio to Island communities while Ger Sullivan of Bere Island Boatyard spoke on reviving sea wright skills, perhaps through apprenticeships.

Cathy Ní Ghóill from Inis Mór showed how Islanders can be caught by weather: unable to get back to Aran in time, Cathy's informative talk on the waste and recycling project on the Aran Islands was given from the ferry on her way home.

Another hugely successful webinar/workshop was held last week, organised by Mairtin O Mealoid and John Walsh with the EU Clean Energy for EU Islands Secretariat. There were presentations from and discussions with experts in various facets of clean energy transition and ground work laid for future collaborations.

This work is vital if the offshore islands are to develop sustainable, clean energy sources into the future.

Covid-19 has changed how all of us carry out our daily lives but it seems to have also stimulated more exchange of ideas, albeit through cyber-meetings. We are reimagining the future of the islands working around the obstacles in the way of sustainability.

So for now its stay well, stay safe and slán from the Islands.

SFPA Introduces Valid System

The Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) is rolling-out of a major new IT system designed to support increased compliance with sea-fisheries regulations. VALID, a fully automated crosscheck system, will automatically verify data, including in real time. The system will make it easier to identify vessels with a higher risk of non-compliance, enabling the SFPA and its control partners, the Naval Service and the Air Corps, to focus resources on vessels and fishing activity requiring more targeted inspections. The new system applies to all Irish vessels fitted with an electronic recording and reporting system (ERS).

VALID has been developed for the SFPA and the Defence Force's Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine's (DAFM) Information Management Team within the current Integrated Fisheries Information System (IFIS). SFPA and FMC can now automatically cross-check data information provided in the electronic logbooks by the vessel Master, the vessel's electronic monitoring system (VMS) as well as information provided by buyers on sales notes allowing immediate identification of inconsistencies, errors and missing information.

The SFPA/FMC will follow up on every detected fail that is notified by the system in relation to data to close them out. This may include them contacting the Master/Owner and notifying them of the action that they may be required to take.

More serious fails may result in infringe-

ment action being pursued by the SFPA/FMC. In recent weeks Masters, Owners and Buyers may have noticed this increase in communication.

Dr Susan Steele, Chair of the SFPA stated that the benefits of VALID will be felt across the fishing industry.

"The majority of fishermen and buyers are compliant with the regulations, filling out their logbooks and sales notes correctly. The automated system is enabling us to gather better information on where there is a risk of non-compliance with fishing regulations, thereby allowing us to target our resources at those vessels and fishing activities that have a higher risk of non-compliance.

"Going forward VALID will aid us as we work to deter and detect any future illegal fishing violations," said Dr Steele.



Photo taken by Thomas Fitzpatrick, skipper of the Shauna Ann. They have been huge supporters of the fishing for litter campaign from day one. Thomas is just in from a whitefish trip where he was fishing in Area 6A and 7B and he happened to pick up this on his travels (along with a large volume of discarded gear). As Thomas said himself "There is always someone dumping crap!"



Aboard the Kittiwake are Bob Lynch; Gerry Mc Loughlin; Johnny Mortimer and Stuart Ryder



Tuna galore and washed catch below deck



Skipper's Watch Below; The 'Party Boat' underway; Petit Zico from Isle d'Yeu

Hauling Sub Surface Gillnets; Gutting Tuna; Fine Dining



The Maritime Heritage Column

Tuna Fishing on MFV Kittiwake 1991

by Richard Mc Cormick, President Emeritus, Maritime Institute of Ireland

The BIM exploratory fishing tuna trips with Nicko and Jofie Murphy's MFV's *Gary Óg* and *Aine Íde* in 1990, highlighted the opportunity to develop an Irish track record in non-quota Albacore Tuna. One of the early vessels pioneering this new fishery in 1991 was the 56 foot long Galway registered vessel MFV *Kittiwake* owned by John Roberts.

The techniques used were gillnets and trolling, the latter using 20 metre 'tangons' to deploy lines furnished with barbless double hooked lures festooned

with coloured nylon threads and towed at speed behind the vessel. Modern electronic technology on *Kittiwake* included a Furuno satellite sea surface temperature unit to detect rapid variations across temperature gradients where tuna gathered that proved useful in cloudless conditions in the North Atlantic.

For Irish fishermen weaned on inshore salmon drift netting, applying their skills to tuna was straightforward. Nonetheless, *Kittiwake's* Skipper Giles Fraser and her owner John Roberts were enthusiasts for technical conservation measures. French skippers quickly nicknamed *Kittiwake* the 'party boat' for her array of highly visible inflatable buoys used to set her nets two metres below the ocean surface. Sonic cetacean warning emitters were also deployed to good effect.

Trolling though challenging, especially in windy conditions, was eventually mastered through dogged persistence. Towed lures proved invaluable for locating fast moving migratory tuna. Furthermore, carefully handled line caught tuna opened up a high quality niche fishery plus a premium tuna processing opportunity which continues to this day.

Credit must go to Skipper Giles Fraser and crewmembers Bob Lynch, Gerry Mc Loughlin, Stuart Ryder and Johnny Mortimer for their persistence in making *Kittiwake's* 1991 foray into the Albacore Tuna fishery successful. Fishing 10-day trips in the unpredictable Bay of Biscay and the North Atlantic towards the

Azores, where the tail end of Caribbean hurricanes pose ever present menaces to a 56 foot boat, requires determination. For her part *Kittiwake*, despite her small size, behaved magnificently in heavy seas.

The willingness of Irish skipper-owners to take financial risks in a highly speculative fishery spanning vast ocean distances and regarded by French tuna fishermen as equivalent to playing the Lotto, led to Ireland being allocated 5% of the Total Allowable Catch of North Atlantic Albacore Tuna. The fishery is addictive and few fishermen can forget the adrenalin rush that good tuna fishing provides. Though the inhospitable Atlantic Ocean is enormous in scale and totally devoid of familiar landmarks, French, Spanish and Irish tuna boats tend to congregate around shoaling tuna, so the fishery is rarely lonely.

Drift netting was banned by the EU in 2002 and *Kittiwake* was sold to Aran Island owners. Ironically, fishermen whose lives revolve around the seasons working in close proximity to the elements are less inclined to write down their experiences than other maritime sectors. Assuming disinterest in their often unbelievable exploits, they avoid talking about them and valuable historical information is lost. However, the indomitable pioneering spirit that led Irish fishermen to pursue Albacore Tuna hundreds of miles from the Irish coast three decades ago forms an indelible part of Ireland's rich maritime heritage which deserves to be recorded - if only in photographic images.



National Maritime Museum of Ireland

For information on the National Maritime Museum's exhibitions and events see www.mariner.ie



Skipper Giles Fraser with Tuna and closeup of Albacore Tuna (Inset photos) *Kittiwake* at Castletownbere in 1991; *Kittiwake's* stern and outward bound from Castletownbere.

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Safety and Hygiene at Sea From PBP

Renowned paint and coatings technology company PBP Services have recently completed a state-of-the-art anti-slip deck resin project on the new Shetland trawler Ocean Challenge which is nearing its delivery date at the Mooney Boat Yard in Killybegs.

Ocean Challenge owner Leslie Hughson has joined the growing list of customers for the new 'Degafloor' anti-slip deck resin which incorporates a specialized grit to provide safe working areas for crew on deck and eliminates the dangerous possibility of a crewman slipping on a wet deck and injuring himself.

An added benefit for the new Ocean Challenge and the rest of the fishing fleet is the Quality Assurance of this technology which comes with the Lloyd's German shipping register certification Health & Safety Certifications as well the Food and Drinks Industry Certification for Factory and Food Producing industries.

Since its relatively recent introduction to the market, PBP Services have been busy installing the Degafloor system to many new vessels in Ireland, UK and Denmark with demand now leading to other existing pelagic and white-fish vessels wanting their outdoor and fish handling working deck areas coated with this new technology.

After many years of combined development and trials with the resin product which is manufactured in Germany by the world's leading resin manufacturer and then distributed by Degafloor and installed by PBP wherever may be required not only on new builds but also on older vessel refit projects.

System

During installation onboard Ocean Challenge the four-layer resin compound application was installed and fully cured in each area within two 24-hour working shifts with the experienced team working hard and efficiently throughout the night to a strict application system which can not afford any miscalculation as the rapid curing of the process could go drastically wrong if not applied correctly by experienced personnel and, working to this schedule allowed for the shipyard workers to continue uninterrupted with their normal start time the following morning and with their work schedule for that day ahead.

Each layer in the four-layer system fully cures within one and half hours at temperatures as low as -30C degrees - meaning that this coating system has also commonly been used within refrigerated rooms and cold stores in previous projects.

On Ocean Challenge, the trawl deck had the areas between the sacrificial flat bar deck protection strips brought back up to level of top of the flat bar before having the four-layer application fully installed from the trawl winches and net drums all the way back to the stern shooting gate and inside the stern rails. The net tracks were left in a smooth resin finish to provide ease of shooting and hauling in order to prevent the netting sticking and fraying.

The areas outside of the net tracks on the trawl deck, as well as down below in the fish handling and processing deck, had the FB quartz system applied in order to enhance anti-slip properties on these decks.

PBP owners Peter Bruce (Patsy) his sons and the team of installers would like to thank the Ocean Challenge owners and also Mooney Boats for all the help and support provided to PBP in carrying out this project.

Peter Bruce also commented that having seen the results on the installation on Ocean Challenge, he is not surprised that they are currently receiving many enquiries from owners of existing vessels.

"The product, which can be coated over steel, aluminium, fibre glass, wood or concrete, in order to provide grip and to prevent surface corrosion, is very robust and hard wearing with excellent resistance to mechanical damage & wear and it is also acid and chemical resistant, is very easily cleaned and maintained as well as providing a real barrier for many years," he said.

With PBP applying other applications as well as the Degafloor system, such as inside fishrooms and RSW tank floors, as well as to internal mess decks, galleys, alleyways, accommodation areas and oilskin changing lockers, PBP are currently working on several vessels in the Port of Killybegs as well as with ongoing projects in the UK and Denmark.

• **PBP and Degafloor have worked very closely over many years in order to be the only suppliers and installers of the Degafloor Systems to the fishing industry.**

For further information or to make enquires see www.pbpservices.co.uk or phone +44 (0) 1346514056



Nearing completion at Mooney Boats is the 'Ocean Challenge'

Coast Guard Changes to VHF Channels

The Coast Guard will be making a number of changes to its VHF working channels.

This, it says, follows amendments to transmitting frequencies in order to harmonise the VHF maritime mobile band internationally. They will also require upgrading of radio equipment at a number of sites.

These are expected to take place between Monday, October 5 and mid-December, with dates for the Channel changeovers yet to be confirmed.

The Coast Guard says that the remaining sites of Carlingford, Wicklow, Mizen Head, Galway, Clew Bay, Donegal Bay, Galley Head, Lough Ree and Lough Derg will retain their currently assigned channel.

Channel 16 will remain available at each remote site for distress, safety and calling and will not be affected by these changes. Channel 67 is also available when required

but may not be actively monitored at all times.

As the upgrade work progresses, the Coast Guard has said it will inform the public that a Channel has changed by the following means:

- By broadcasting on the Channel that will be changing in the days leading up to the switchover
- The Irish Coast Guard's social media accounts on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.
- Updated information on the gov.ie website and the Safety on the Water website.

Further information from: admin@irish-coastguard.ie

Site	Radio Call Sign	Current Channel	New Channel
Howth Hts	Dublin Coast Guard	CH 83	CH 03
Rosslare Hts	Rosslare Coast Guard	CH 23	CH 05
Mine Hd Hts	Mine Head Coast Guard	CH 83	CH 03
Cork Hts	Cork Coast Guard	CH 26	CH 02
Bantry Hts	Bantry Coast Guard	CH 23	CH 05
Valentia Hts	Valentia Coast Guard	CH 24	CH 62
Shannon Hts	Shannon Coast Guard	CH 28	CH 64
Belmullet Hts	Belmullet Coast Guard	CH 83	CH 63
Clifden Hts	Clifden Coast Guard	CH 26	CH 03
Malin Hd Hts	Malin Head Coast Guard	CH 23	CH 05
Scalp Mountain	Malin Head Coast Guard	CH 85	CH 01
Glen Hd Hts	Glen Head Coast Guard	CH 24	CH 03



Morning time at Ardglass lighthouse, waiting on the fleet arriving home from the Clyde - Photo by C Feenan

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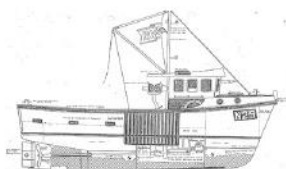
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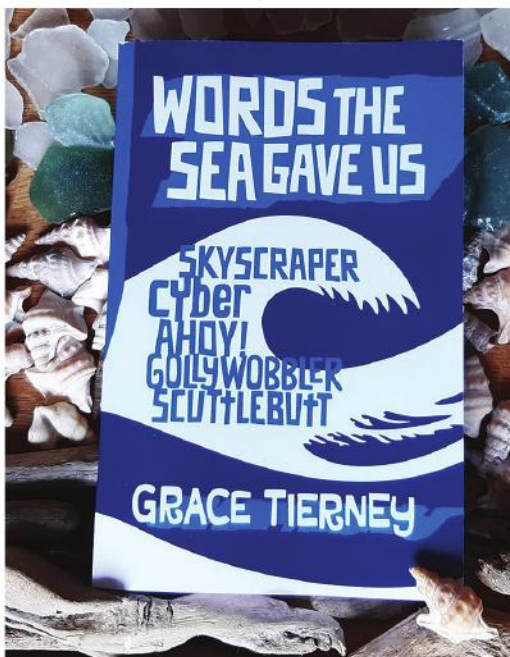
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“Words the Sea Gave Us”

Grace Tierney, an author writing in Stamullen, East Meath, has released her second book about the history of words. This time she's set her course for a watery trip through maritime history in “Words The Sea Gave Us”. Grace, who moved to the Meath coast in 2005 says she's nurtured a love of the sea her whole life, growing up on Dublin Bay and listening to the fog-horns and sea birds at night.

“I've been blogging every Monday (www.wordfoolery.wordpress.com) for a decade now about the history behind English words. It was an easy choice to write about pirates, sailing ships, and nautical phrases in this book,” she says. She volunteers for the international National Novel Writing Month (www.nanowrimo.org) every November, mentoring writers of all ages from Meath and Louth while writing her own books too, but this time she wrote nonfiction instead of fiction - a tough challenge with all the research involved.



today. Clear the decks, pipe down, cyber, skyscraper, work strike, and slush fund all have maritime roots. She loves the stories

behind the words - the final cutlass attack in World War Two, the Great Rum Debate, why Long John Silver didn't have a peg leg, and the origin of the booby trap.

“Words The Sea Gave Us” is out now in paperback and ebook, along with her earlier book “How To Get Your Name In The Dictionary” (the stories of the people whose names entered the dictionary, from Casanova to Zeppelin).

What's next for this self-confessed word geek? She's neck deep in Old Norse for the next book in the series, “Words The Vikings Gave Us”.

She believes sailors brought home words from all over the world along with phrases you're more likely to hear in an office

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Dauntless Courage: Book Celebrating the History of the Dunmore East RNLI

Dunmore East RNLI has been saving lives off the South East coast since 1884. Since then Lifeboats based in the village have launched nearly 1000 times and saved over 305 lives and aided 1315 people in distress on the seas along the Waterford and Wexford coast.



David Carroll at Lifeboat Build Facility, RNLI HQ, Poole, England

David Carroll the son of Captain Desmond Carroll, a former Harbour Master in Dunmore is currently completing a book on the history of the Dunmore East RNLI Lifeboats and the community from which the crews are drawn. David grew up in Dunmore East and whilst moving from the village in his 20s to pursue a career he has always retained a great love for the maritime heritage he inherited growing up in the village. David has spent nearly two years researching this book which is now near completion. The book, which is based on archives both here in Ireland and the RNLI archives in Poole, England, will detail the boats that were stationed in Dunmore and the stories of the rescues they carried out. Also included in the book will be many interesting and unique photographs that have not appeared in public before. The story of the village itself, and its link as a fishing community with the Lifeboats and crews, brings the reader from the earliest times of saving lives at sea in the area up to the present.

David Carroll, author of *Dauntless Courage* said: ‘I feel that I have been extremely fortunate to have been given this wonderful opportunity of writing a history of the Dunmore East RNLI Lifeboats and their volunteer crews. As a small boy, I

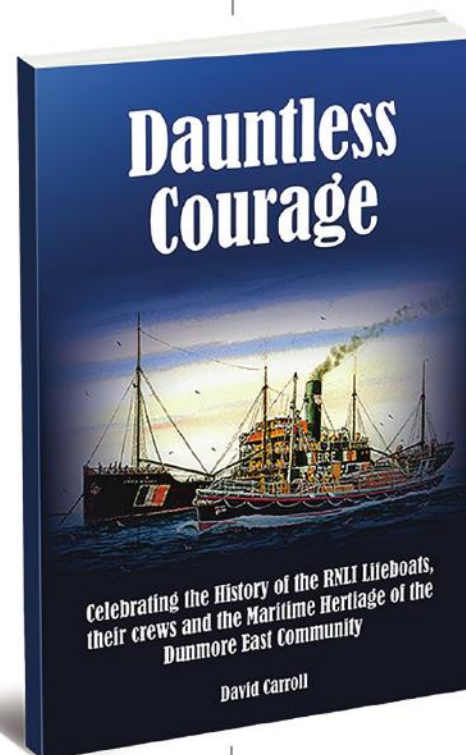
used to see the names of the *Henry Dodd* and *Fanny Harriet* on the records boards that were in a small fuel store on the pier. I never could have imagined that one day, I would be researching and writing about these famous lifeboats”.

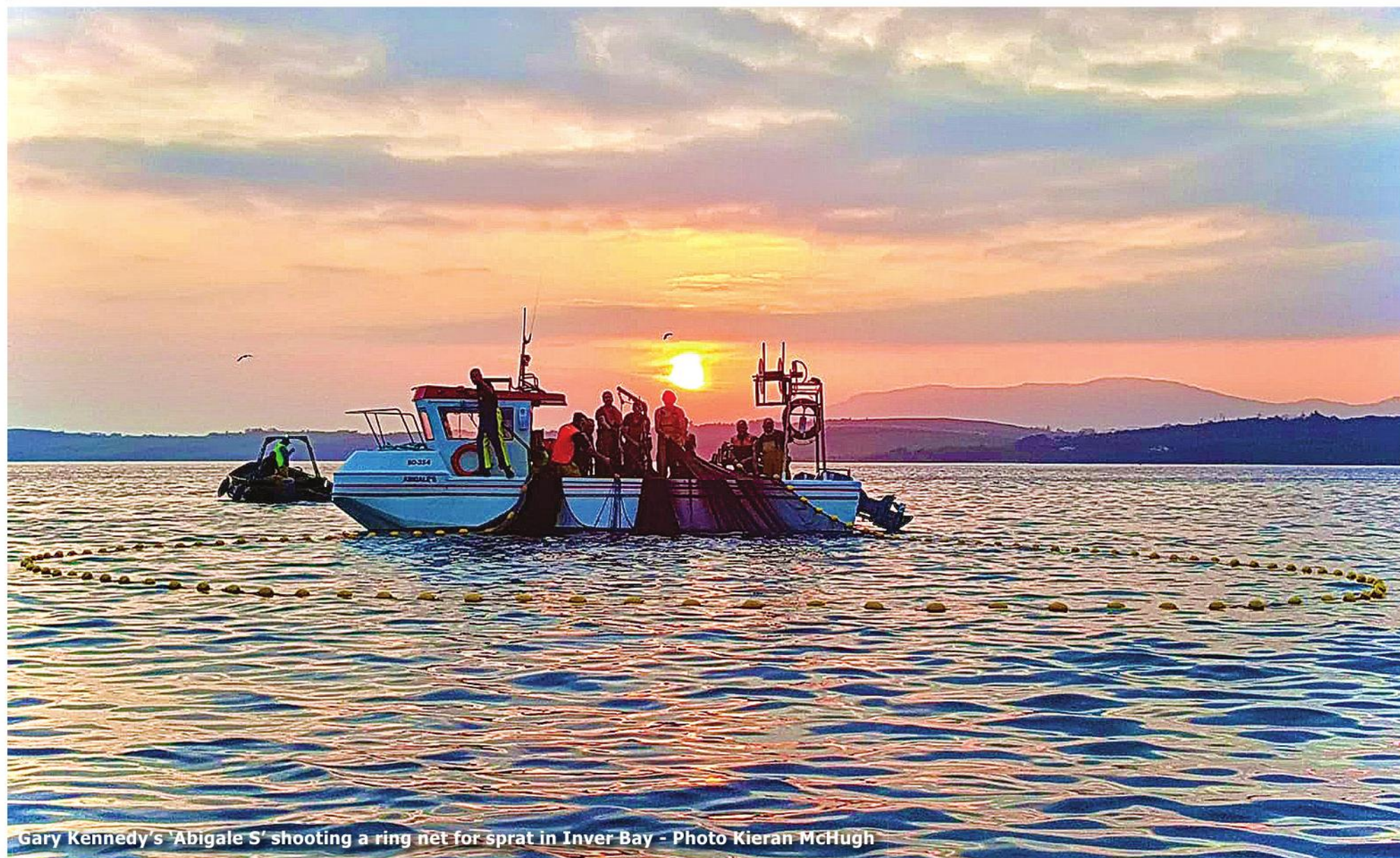
Brendan Dunne, RNLI volunteer crew with Dunmore East RNLI said: ‘As crew we are delighted to see a book of this calibre been written. It is a testimony to the maritime history of the village and the volunteers who go to sea to rescue people in distress. David has ensured that the legacy of RNLI volunteers and supporters past and present will always be remembered in times eye and that the Lifeboat is an integral part of the community in Dunmore and surrounding areas’

Dauntless Courage: Celebrating the History of the Dunmore East RNLI, their crews and the Maritime Heritage of the Local Community.

All proceeds from the book will be going to the local Dunmore East Lifeboat Fundraising Branch to support the saving of lives on our seas.

For pre-orders and further information on the book please see website: www.dunmorelifeboatbook.com or email - dunmorelifeboatbook@gmail.com





Gary Kennedy's 'Abigale S' shooting a ring net for sprat in Inver Bay - Photo Kieran McHugh

Irish 'Real-Time' Fisheries Chart Helping to Protect Ireland's Marine Environment

Skippers and crew working on the 2,022 registered fishing vessels in Ireland can now access an interactive digital fisheries chart which provides guidance on a vast number of conservation and fisheries management regulations designed to help fishermen understand the rules that apply and support sustainability in sea fisheries.

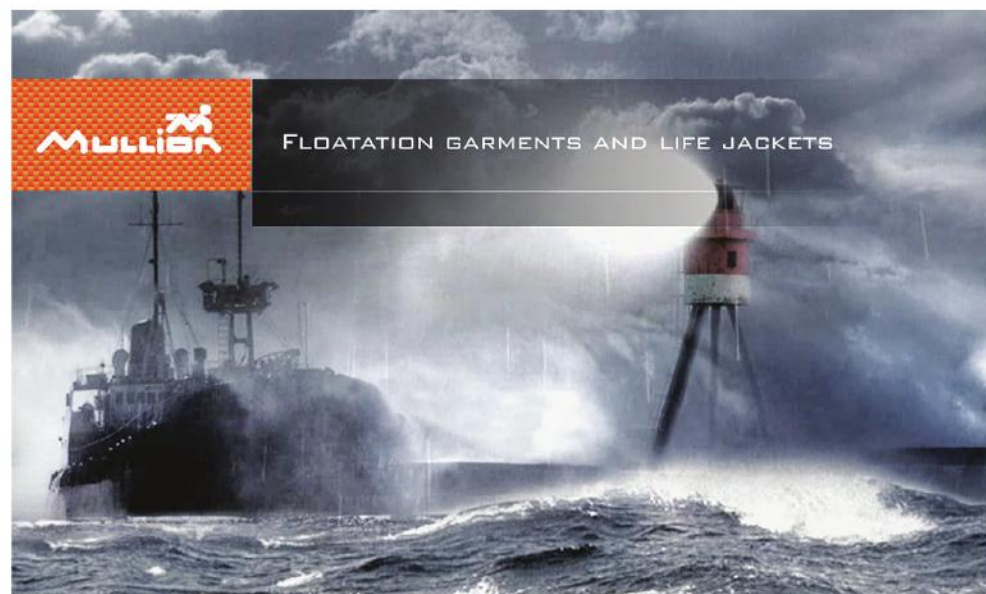
The chart, developed by BIM in partnership with the Marine Institute and the Sea Fisheries Protection Agency (SFPA) and funded under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund provides guidance on European and national regulations concerning closed areas, mesh size and restrictions on the use of certain fishing gears.

The online version of the fisheries management chart can be accessed at www.fisheriesmanagementchart.ie

The print format of the Fisheries Management Chart produced annually, will continue to be distributed and is available to download from www.bim.ie



Online Fisheries Management Chart with real-time information on quotas and regulations now in use by industry (Pictured l-r): Niall Connolly, MFV Patrick C and Val Reilly using the fisheries management chart online.



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