



Celtic Sea Herring Management Advisory Committee – CSHMAC

PRESS RELEASE

“ CSHMAC requests Minister’s support for Increase in Celtic Sea Herring Quota ”

At a Meeting today between the **Celtic Sea Herring Management Advisory Committee** (CSHMAC) and Minister Simon Coveney, the Committee requested the Ministers support for a request they are in the process of submitting to the European Commission for an increase in this year’s quota for Celtic Sea Herring based on the latest Scientific Advice.

Eibhlin O’Sullivan, Chair of the Committee explained, *“I was in attendance at the ICES (International Council for the Exploration of the Seas) meeting where the mechanism used to assess the status of the stock was revised. On foot of this revision, ICES have changed their advice for this stock and increased the amount which can be taken safely from the stock from 15,652 to 21,835 tonnes. Given the significance of this increase we are in the process of making a request to the Commission to have the TAC for Celtic Sea Herring increased to 21,835 tonnes which would mean Ireland would have an additional 3,800 tonnes to fish and increase the value of the fishery by €1.5 million first point of sale. At the meeting the CSHMAC requested the Ministers support for this request and Minister Coveney confirmed that he would support the request and the CSHMAC will continue to work over the coming months to try and ensure that this request is granted in time to be of benefit to the fishery which is due to start in September.”*

Other matters discussed included the revision of the Long Term Management Plan which is in place for the fishery and has been evaluated by ICES. Funding for the CSHMAC (which is at present funded by those Organisations represented on the Committee, despite it being a Ministerial appointed Committee) itself together with financial support for the MSC Certification of the fishery which the CSHMAC currently administers.

Finally, the CSHMAC once again raised the requirement for the current Survey in relation to the stock to be expanded to ensure that all the stock is covered and requested, once again, for the Minister to support this request and raise the matter with the Marine Institute.

ENDS

Dated the 17th day of June, 2015.

Contact: Ms. Eibhlin O’Sullivan, Chair - CSHMAC - 086 / 2360001

