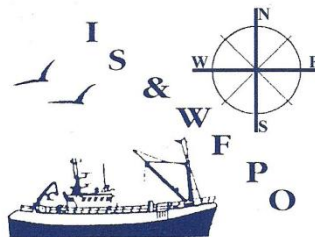


*Irish South and West
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PRESS RELEASE

“ Fishermen call on Minister to put in place Compensation Scheme “

“Since early December 2013 Ireland has been subject to a relentless cycle of storms which have had a devastating impact in particular on our Fishermen. For Inshore Fishermen, it has been a double blow as many have lost tens of thousands of Euros worth of gear and in addition, have been unable due to the severe weather to even try and earn and a living” explained Eibhlín O’Sullivan, CEO of the Irish South and West Fish Producers Organisation (IS&WFPO).

“These ongoing storms have left the majority of Fishermen unable to fish for some two months now. No fish means no income for these Fishermen, their families and the rural coastal peripheral communities who rely on them and this situation is exacerbated by the fact that as most are Self-Employed they have no access to any sort of Social Welfare” continued Ms. O’Sullivan. *“For the many Inshore Fishermen who have lost the gear or had it so badly damaged that it is useless, the cost of replacement is so high and their access to any source of finance so limited that it makes the situation impossible and many are now facing an uncertain future as without new gear they will be unable to continue to fish and face looking for alternative employment”*.

“The IS&WFPO wrote to Minister Coveney in January outlining the dire situation of these Fishermen asking him to put in place some sort of Compensation or Aid Package for them. Without such a Scheme a large number of fishermen will be forced to leave the Industry, an Industry they have been involved in for all of their lives. We therefore, urge Minister Coveney to make this issue a priority” concluded Ms. O’Sullivan.

Ends

12th February, 2014.

Contact: **Eibhlin O’Sullivan**, CEO, IS&WFPO Ltd. – 086 2360001