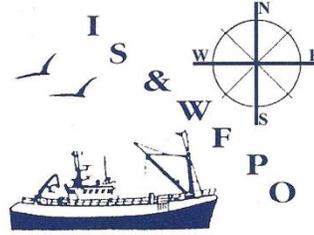


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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Already bleak situation for Fishing Industry worsens as Commission proposes additional quota reductions.**

**Eibhlin O'Sullivan**, CEO of the **IS&WFPO Ltd.**, today advised that the situation in relation to the TAC and Quotas proposals for 2014 have in fact worsened. *"When we met the Minister in the middle of November we were facing in a loss of income to fishermen of €22 million and an overall loss to the Irish economy of approximately €70 million. However, the Commission recently issued their proposals for a number of additional stocks not included in their original documents and this now includes a reduction in the amount of Prawns by a cataclysmic 23%"*

*"Prawns are Ireland's second most valuable fishery and this new proposal will see our Prawn Fleets income reduced by in excess of €16 million and a further onshore loss of €34 million. At this point if the Commission proposals were to be implemented the loss to the fishing industry will be in the region of €32 million and an overall loss to the Irish economy of over €1 billion. From a jobs perspective the number of job losses will be in the region of 1,800."*

*"These proposals will see a lot of smaller fishing enterprises go out of business, jobs will be lost, as the majority of those in the fishing industry are self employed there will be no social welfare available to them and families will unfortunately and inevitably lose their businesses and homes. And yet there is no huge outcry? If a Company was to announce 1,800 redundancies it would be the first item on all news bulletins but announce this level of losses for the fishing industry, the sole industry for the rural, coastal peripheral areas in which it is based and it goes unnoticed and uncommented on" Ms. O'Sullivan continued.*

*“The IS&WFPO have together with our colleagues throughout Europe prepared a detailed document which will be sent to all twenty-seven Ministers who are attending the December Council Meeting setting out Industry’s recommendations in relation to the TAC and Quota proposals. These include references to disparities between ICES Advice and the Commission’s recommendations for example in the case of Monk in the Celtic Sea which ICES have recommended a 51% increase and the Commission have proposed a rollover of the 2013 quota which is 22% less than the ICES recommendation. Hake is another example where the Commission’s proposal is 44% less than the TAC recommended by ICES. Of particular importance from an Irish perspective, is that of Prawns in the Celtic Sea where the ICES recommendation for an 8% reduction in landings has led to the Commission proposing a 23% reduction in the TAC. To put this in monetary terms the Commissions proposal will as outlined above see fishermen’s income reduced by in excess of €16 million, if the reduction of 8% proposed by ICES was applied this loss would be reduced to €5.4 million, still significant but not as catastrophic” Ms. O’Sullivan explained.*

*“A copy of this document will obviously be sent to Minister Coveney and we are counting on him and his fellow European Ministers to adopt an approach to the TAC and Quota Regulations in line with these recommendations and as we have previously requested ensure the survival of a very valuable Irish species, our fishermen”.*

**ENDS**

4<sup>th</sup> December, 2013.

Notes:

The EU Commission published its proposals for TAC and Quotas for 2014 (2013/0366) on the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2013

The EU Commission published its non paper containing updates to its original proposal on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2013.

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