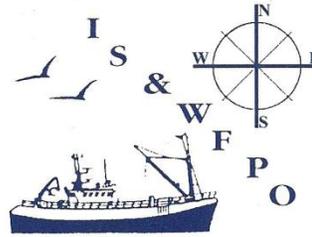


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PRESS RELEASE

“ Seafood Sector once again facing significant job losses as a result of proposed quota cuts ”

In stark contrast to the job creation announcements in recent days the Seafood Sector, once again, faces job losses. Ahead of the annual Council of Ministers Meeting held in Brussels each December the EU Commission has issued its Proposals for Quotas for 2015 which contain significant reductions for a number of key species both Whitefish and Pelagic on which the Irish Fishing Industry rely.

“I am aware that to most people it seems like each year around this time we come out and warn that the Irish Fishing Industry will be decimated as a result of the Commission’s Proposals for the annual fishing quotas but what the majority of people not directly involved in the Fishing Industry don’t realise is that over the past number of years there have been a significant number of Irish Fishermen who have been forced to leave the Industry and who are now unemployed ” explained Eibhlín O’Sullivan, CEO of the **Irish South and West Fish Producers Organisation (IS&WFPO)**.

“We’ve all heard the Government’s announcement of job boosts for the whole of Ireland in recent days but these jobs are primarily based in urban areas such as Dublin and Cork and are of little benefit to those who live in those rural , coastal, peripheral communities which rely on the Fishing Industry for their survival” continued Ms. O’Sullivan. *“To them the Governments job announcements are little more than salt in their wounds coming less than a week after the Commission published its Proposal for the 2015 fishing quotas which, if implemented, will see the Fishing Industry lose somewhere in the region of **€70 million** and the Seafood Sector a further **€147 million**. Should the projected reductions in quota go ahead the job losses to the Seafood Sector in general are estimated to be around 1,200 jobs. That is 1,200 people who live in rural, coastal, peripheral communities who will be facing into unemployment for 2015.”*

“We are calling on the Government and, in particular, Minister Coveney as the Minister with responsibility for the Marine to focus their attention for the coming weeks on working with the Industry to fight these proposed reductions and keep these valuable jobs and allow these communities to survive and if given the support they deserve from the Government to thrive.”

ENDS

Dated this 10th day of November, 2014.

Contact: Ms. Eibhlin O’Sullivan, CEO, IS&WFPO Ltd. - 086 / 2360001

Notes: The EU Commission published its proposals for TAC and Quotas for 2015 (2014/0311 on the 28th of October 2014)