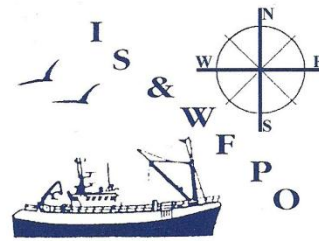


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PRESS RELEASE

2014 TAC and Quotas will cost Whitefish Fleet Income and Jobs .

Eibhlin O'Sullivan, CEO of the **IS&WFPO**, today stated that while there were some increases in Whitefish stocks such as Monk and Hake, overall the Irish Whitefish Industry will lose €27.5 million and 500 jobs, in rural coastal peripheral areas where there is little alternative employment were in danger.

"In relation to the Pelagic stocks, the significant increases in Mackerel and Boarfish are welcome but it is important that the ongoing situation with Iceland and Faroes be resolved and that the Irish Industry does not continue to pay for the bad behaviour of Iceland and Faroes. The 14% increase of Albacore Tuna, which is of particular interest to vessels in the South West Coast, was a welcome reward for the hard work carried out by Industry together with BIM in relation to this fishery and I would like to take the opportunity to thank both BIM and the SFPA for the work they did in relation to this stock during 2013."

"Much has been made however, of these increases in Pelagic stocks and while these are welcome for those fishermen in the South West Coast of Ireland who depend on whitefish for their livelihood there was little good news from the Council Meeting. I have carried out an assessment of what the 2014 quotas will mean for my members in terms of income and even factoring the 49% increase in Hake and 15% increase in Monk the overall loss to the Whitefish Fleet itself is around €9 million with losses in the region of €16.5 million to the Processing and Retail Sectors as a result of the cuts."

"Haddock suffered one of the greatest reductions - 33%, and while the Minister and his European colleagues justified this reduction saying it was based on Scientific Advice - it is a cause of much frustration to the Industry as they continue to see an abundance of this species. The 9% reduction in the Prawn quota in the South West is an additional blow as it comes on top of reductions in Cod, Haddock and Whiting in the same area and therefore, is a "double hit" to Whitefish vessels on the South West Coast. It is difficult to understand the justification for this level of reduction given there has been no significant changes to the fishery over the last number of years" Ms. O'Sullivan continued.

“When I met with Minister Coveney on Tuesday night after the conclusion of the Council I expressed, on behalf of those I represent, my disappointment in the outcome and the devastating impact it will have on fishermen and those who depend on them for their livelihood. While the Minister acknowledged there were reductions he also pointed to the increases in some stocks. The importance of ensuring that the current disparity in the perception of stocks be resolved so that in the future such reductions would be avoided was emphasised to the Minister and from an Industry perspective we are now calling on Minister Coveney to ensure that the necessary suite of measures are put in place to help those fishermen affected by the reductions survive.”

ENDS

19th December 2013.

Notes:

The Council of Ministers Meeting concluded at approx.. 18.15 CET on Tuesday the 17th of December.

Contact: Eibhlin O’Sullivan – 086 2360001