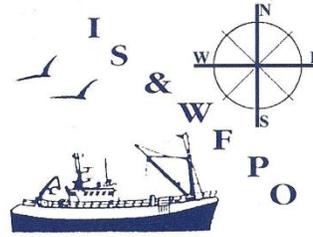


*Irish South and West
Fish Producers' Organisation Ltd.*



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PRESS RELEASE

Representatives of the Board of Directors of the *Irish South & West Fish Producers Organisation Ltd.* (IS&WFPO Ltd.) today met with Senator Denis O'Donovan and Senator Brian O'Domhnall to discuss their recent Bill "The Sea Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction (Fixed Penalty Notice) Bill 2013" which would allow minor fisheries related offences to be dealt with by way of fines rather than criminal proceedings.

"The IS&WFPO have long campaigned against the Sea Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 and preceding legislation which renders even a minor fisheries related offence a criminal offence and any Irish fisherman who is found guilty of such an offence in a Court of law of will have a criminal conviction recorded against them and the attendant restrictions placed upon them as a result of same" states Eibhlin O'Sullivan, CEO, **"In 2010 while in opposition Fine Gael sponsored a Private Members Bill the "Sea Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction (Fixed Penalty Notice) (Amendment) Bill 2009" to introduce an Irish system of administrative sanctions for minor sea fisheries offences. The purpose of the bill was to allow administrative sanctions to be applied for minor breaches of the original act. Unfortunately, the Bill was defeated as at the time Fine Gael did not command a majority of the votes in the Dáil" continued Ms. O'Sullivan "Again, as part of Fine Gaels Election Manifesto in 2011, the introduction of such a system of administrative sanctions was identified as a priority issue however, as of this moment in time, some 26 months after Fine Gael came into power, there has been no apparent progress on this matter"**.

"We therefore, welcome the Bill put forward by Senator O'Donovan and Senator O'Domhnall and are hopeful that it will receive the requisite support from all members of the Dáil regardless of their political affiliation. The criminalisation of fisheries related offences has been a source of incredible stress and has acted as both a disincentive to those considering a career in the fishing industry and also the one of the primary motivators for many experienced fishermen in leaving the Industry. This Bill represents the first step in reversing this trend and Senator O'Donovan and Senator O'Domhnall are to be commended on taking this initiative".

Ends

7th June 2013.

Eibhlin O'Sullivan, CEO, IS&WFPO Ltd. Mobile No. 086 - 2360001