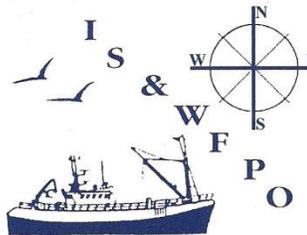


Irish South and West Fish Producers' Organisation Ltd.



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Press Release

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Simon Coveney meets with the Board of Directors of the Irish South and West Fish Producers Organisation Ltd.

The Board of Directors of the ***Irish South and West Fish Producers Organisation Ltd.*** met with Minister Simon Coveney, his Department Officials, Mr. Noel Harrington, Local T.D and Jeremiah O'Sullivan of Castletownbere Town Council, this Saturday the 2nd of July 2011, on the Ministers first visit to Castletownbere since his appointment as Minister in March of this year.

A number of high profile issues were discussed such as the Reform of the Common Fisheries Policy and the implications for the Irish Fishing Industry of the Commission's Proposals in particular, the proposed Ban on Discards and acknowledging the need for Industry and the Department to work together on Conservation Measures to both reduce Discards and protect juvenile stocks.

The difficulties currently being experienced by Inshore Fishermen due to competing interests for their fishing grounds in particular, the designation of areas as Special Areas of Conservation which could result in these Inshore vessels being displaced from their traditional fishing grounds were also highlighted to the Minister.

"We found the Minister to be fully au-fait with the issues being discussed and a full and frank discussion was held with both sides putting forward their positions. We, once again, raised the inequitable division of pelagic quotas in general between the RSW and Polyvalent segments with 13% of the Mackerel quota for example, being divided amongst in excess of 40 polyvalent vessels and 87% amongst the 23 RSW" said Eibhlin O'Sullivan, CEO of the Irish South and West adding "we also discussed at length the Commissions ongoing Proposals to introduce functional unit management for the Prawn Fisheries which would be extremely detrimental to those involved in this fishery and which we would argue is unwarranted as these stocks are considered by Scientists to be stable. The introduction of a functional unit for the Porcupine Basin stock has resulted in fishermen active in this area being allocated a severely restricted quota this year and which fishermen feel was particularly unwarranted given that an Industry proposed seasonal closure was introduced in this area during 2010 to protect this stock was also discussed with the Minister."

In relation to the Ministers announcement that he has instructed BIM to begin a comprehensive Economic Survey of the Castletownbere area to establish its economic importance to the area, Ms. O’Sullivan welcomed the announcement by saying “*we have been requesting this Study to be carried out for some time now and look forward to working in partnership with BIM on this which will provide the basis to ensure that the potential of fishing industry in the Castletownbere area is realised.*”

ENDS

4th July, 2011

Eibhlin O’Sullivan Contact Nos. 086 – 2360001 027 - 70670

Notes: The ***Irish South and West Fish Producers organisation Ltd.*** has in excess of 80 member vessels in the South West of the Country and as such represents approximately 50% of vessels who are members of Producer Organisations Nationally. It’s members range in size from 5 – 37 metres and are involved in a variety of fishing segments including shellfish, whitefish and pelagic.

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Photo attached: From left to right-

Jerry O’Sullivan, Noel Harrington, Gerard Harrington, Simon Coveney, T.D., John Tattan, T. M. Hassett-Secretary IS&WFPO Ltd., Eibhlin O’Sullivan – CEO IS&WFPO Ltd., Bill Deasy – Chairman IS&WFPO Ltd., Liam O’Driscoll and Johnny Orpen.

