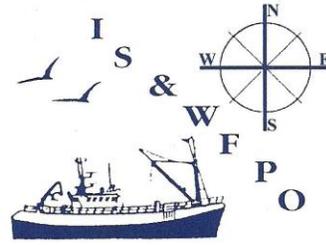


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Irish South and West Fish Producers Organisation Board of Directors, together with their CEO, Ms. Eibhlín O'Sullivan, meets Minister for State Sean Connick TD.

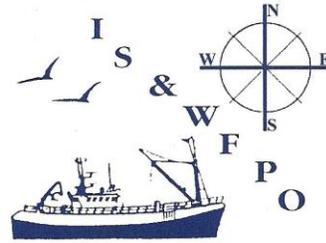
(Also pictured back row left Cllr. Danny Crowley and Mr. Michael Orpen)

Press Release

Minister of State Sean Connick meets the Irish South and West

The Board of Directors of the Irish South and West Fish Producers Limited (IS&WFPO) met with Minister of State, Sean Connick TD, and his senior officials on Tuesday the 8th of June last as part of his visit to Castletownbere. This was the Minister's first visit to the South West since the cabinet reshuffle under which he was given his new fisheries portfolio last March. The meeting agenda included a number of items of key importance to fishermen such as the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), Management Arrangements for Pelagic Species, such as mackerel, and management policy for the inshore sector. The need for ongoing consultation between the Department and the industry in relation to the current review of the CFP was stressed to the Minister and he fully acknowledged the significance of this review process to the

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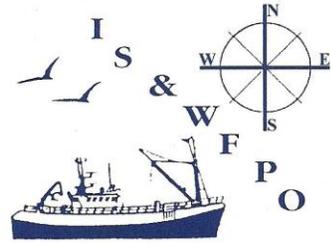


Industry. The IS&WFPO also expressed their disappointment to the Minister at the defeat of the recent Fine Gael Administrative Sanctions Bill and highlighted the ongoing concerns and difficulties caused to the industry as a result of the applicable legislation which criminalises non-compliant fishermen, particularly in light of the increased sanctions created by the new European Control Regulation.

Eibhlín O'Sullivan (CEO of the IS&WFPO) considered the meeting to have been a full and frank one between the Minister and the Organisation, The meeting allowed both sides to express their concerns regarding key issues while also providing an opportunity to discuss more positive developments such as National Seafood Certification Initiatives.

Speaking on behalf of the IS&WFPO, Eibhlin O' Sullivan stated *"I wish to thank Minister Connick for his visit to the Port of Castletownbere and for meeting with our Organisation. The Minister was receptive to the issues we raised and allowed us to express both our frustrations with aspects of current policy as well as discuss related proposals for reform. Both sides agreed that such dialogue was vital to ensure that the progress continues. The Minister displayed a willingness not just to listen to the difficulties currently faced by our sector but to positively engage in addressing these difficulties in the time ahead."*

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Tom Hassett, Secretary of the IS&WFPO, presenting a gift of a boat to Minister of State, Sean Connick TD