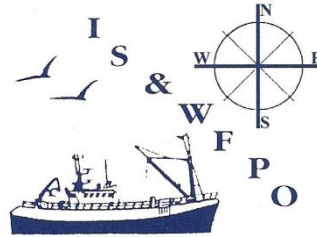


*Irish South and West
Fish Producers' Organisation Ltd.*



The Pier, Castletownbere, Co. Cork

Tel: 027-70670 Fax: 027-70771 Int. Prefix + 353

e-mail: info@irishsouthandwest.ie

Website: www.irishsouthandwest.ie

PRESS RELEASE

IS&WFPO meet with Seán Kelly, MEP to discuss issues of concern to The Fishing Industry.

Members of the Board of Directors of the **Irish South and West Fish Producers Organisation Ltd.** (IS&WFPO) together with T. M. Hassett, Company Secretary and Eibhlín O'Sullivan, CEO met with Seán Kelly, MEP on Friday last, the 1st of February in Bantry to discuss a number of issues of concern to the Irish Fishing Industry.

"The European Parliament voted on the Parliaments Proposal in relation to the Reformed Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) on Wednesday the 6th of February in Strasbourg and therefore, last Friday was an ideal time to meet with Sean to outline our concerns in relation to the proposed Reforms of the CFP" Eibhlín O'Sullivan, CEO of the IS&WFPO explained. *"Of particular concern is the Discards issue. We explained to Seán that the Discards issue is one of great concern to the Fishing Industry but any proposed "ban" would have an extremely detrimental effect on the Irish Fishing Industry given the mixed nature of our whitefish fisheries and the quota issues Ireland has".*

A number of other important issues were also discussed at the meeting such as possible changes to how unused quota by some nations could be re-allocated at a European level, funding for the Fishing Industry, the importance of ensuring the so called "Irish Box" is granted continued protection under any Reformed CFP and also that the Hague Preferences which allow Ireland additional quota in a number of key species each year should be formally incorporated into the Reformed CFP.

"As always we found Seán interested and informed. We are grateful for the continued interest he displays in the Fishing Industry and that he took the time to meet with us" finished Ms. O'Sullivan.

ENDS

7th February, 2013.