



news



AREA VI WHITEFISH STOCKS

SPECIES	ICES Area	Quota 2010	Quota 2011	Diff %
Cod ¹	Vla	53	40	-25%
Cod	Vlb	18	17	-6%
Megrim	VI	399	419	5%
Monkfish	VI	557	529	-5%
Haddock ²	Vb Vla	438	328	-25%
Haddock	Vlb XII XIV	393	295	-25%
Whiting ³	VI	129	97	-25%
Plaice	VI	280	267	-5%
Pollock	VI	57	54	-5%
Saithe	VI	391	429	10%
Sole	VI	49	46	-6%
Nephrops	VI	217	185	-15%
Total		2,981	2,706	-9%

AREA VII WHITEFISH STOCKS

SPECIES	ICES Area	Quota 2010	Quota 2011	Diff %
Cod	VIIa	444	333	-25%
Cod	VII b-k	825	825	0%
Megrim	VII	3029	3029	0%
Monkfish ⁴	VII	2447	2447	0%
Haddock	VII	2573	2959	15%
Haddock	VIIa	617	570	-8%
Whiting	VIIa	91	68	-25%
Whiting	VIIb-k	4565	5250	15%
Plaice	VIIa	1063	1063	0%
Plaice	VII bc	64	61	-5%
Plaice	VII fg	201	200	0%
Plaice	VII hjk	156	81	-48%
Pollock	VII	1051	999	-5%
Saithe	VII	1525	1500	-2%
Sole	VIIa	73	73	0%
Sole	VII bc	35	36	3%
Sole	VII fg	31	39	26%
Sole	VII hjk	225	190	-16%
Nephrops ⁵	VII	8273	8025	-3%
Total		27,288	27,726	2%

AREA VI, VII AND OTHER WHITEFISH STOCKS

SPECIES	ICES Area	Quota 2010	Quota 2011	Diff %
Cod ⁶	I,II	300	211	-30%
Hake ⁷	VI, VII	1704	1704	0%
Redfish ⁸	V, International waters XII, XIV	1	tbd	tbd
Ling ⁹	VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XII, XIV	576	575	0%
Blue Ling ⁹	Vb,VI, VII	4	5	25%
Tusk	V, VI, VII	17	17	0%
Greenland Halibut	IIa, IV, VI	3	2	-33%
Snow Crab	Greenland Waters	62	62	0%
Porbeagle	I, II, III, IV, V, IV, IVV, VIII, IX, X, XII, XIV	0	0	0%
Skate & Rays ¹⁰	VI, VIIa-c, & e-k	1747	1485	-15%
Spur Dogs	I, II, III, IV, V, IV, IVV, VIII, XII, XIV	0	0	0%
Basking Shark	EU Waters	0	0	0%
Total		4,414	4,061	-8%

Footnotes for 2011 whitefish quotas

- By-catch in specified area VIa 30 per cent cod, haddock, whiting and 120mm mesh with square mesh pannel vessels > 15metres, 110mm <15m vessels.
- By-catch in specified area VIa 30 per cent cod, haddock, whiting and 120 mm mesh with square mesh pannel vessels >15 metres, 110mm <15m vessels.
- By-catch in specified area VIa 30 per cent cod, haddock, whiting and 120mm mesh with square mesh pannel vessels >15metres, 110mm<15m vessels.
- 5 per cent monkfish in VII may be fished in area VIIa,b,d,e.
- Only 463 tonnes of nephrops quota may be fished in porcupine functional unit 16.
- 250 tonnes unallocated in I, IIb to Member States except Germany, Spain, France, Poland, Portugal and the United Kingdom.
- No more than 184 tonnes hake VI & VII maybe fished in ICES area VIII a,b,d,e.
- To be decided in NEAFC in January 2011.
- Provisional quota to be decided by May 31, 2011.
- Separate reporting of seven species of ray and prohibits catches of three species of skate and one species ray.



MOSTLY POSITIVE OUTCOME TO A VERY DIFFICULT FISHERIES COUNCIL

The outcome of the Fisheries Council which finished in the early hours of Wednesday morning December 15 was mostly positive, and the best that could be achieved in the context of a number of very damaging Commission's proposals.

Whitefish Quotas 2011

The table opposite shows the whitefish quotas for 2011 for areas VI, VII and for combined areas. In the absence of EU/Faros bilateral agreement some of these stocks are shown as provisional as an unallocated quantity is set aside until May 31 to provide for the possibility of an agreement by that date. The deletion of the seven functional units for nephrops in VII was a major cause of concern for the industry, and is most welcome. Instead of the proposed seven different TAC areas, the existing one TAC area is maintained with a provision restricting the quantity to be fished in the Porcupine. There is a small reduction of three per cent in the TAC. The seasonal nephrops closure fully supported by the industry in the Porcupine Bank for the months of May, June and July has been maintained and the transit arrangement has been modified to allow vessels with certain fish and shellfish species on board to steam through the closed area. The fishing effort proposed for VII,fg was deleted much to the relief of the industry. This year the Commissioner took a very hard line on reductions, with almost all whitefish species in areas VI and VII showing a reduction in her original proposals. In light of this, it is a considerable achievement to have increases of 15 per cent in Celtic sea whiting and haddock, and five and ten per cent respectively for megrim and saithe in VI. The roll over in Celtic sea cod, megrim, monkfish and hake in VI and VII are very important as these are key species for the whitefish fleet. The cod fisheries in areas VIa and VIIa show a reduction of 25 per cent down from the 50 per cent proposed cut. All of the "Hague Preferences" which give Ireland an additional quota share in many key stocks were achieved.

The effects of a further 25 per cent cut for 2011 in the demersal fishing effort in both area VIa and VIIa is a major cause for concern which will eventually lead to no fishing in these areas unless an alternative way forward is found, (see article page two on mesh trials and observations). The catch composition rules (see footnotes 1, 2 and 3) east of the "French Line" agreed at December '08 Council remain in place at least until June 30, 2011. The Commission is proposing extending these rules for a further eighteen months after that date. However this will require co-decision (EU parliament and Council) and it is hoped that amendments put forward by Pat "the Cope" Gallagher MEP will be supported thus enabling the whitefish vessels to viably fish again east of the French line.

(continued on page two)

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Pelagic

The good news of a 10 per cent increase in the Irish mackerel quotas prior to Council, as a result of EU and Norway agreement on setting the TAC for next year at 646,000 tonnes, was slightly dampened by the incompetence of the Commission. It failed to bring forward, until very late in the day, a flawed distribution methodology for allocating Member States quotas. This has resulted in a provisional 80 per cent of Member States mackerel quotas being allocated rather than the full amount. The full amount for Ireland shown in the table opposite should be 68,700 tonnes. It is not a cause for concern as there is agreement to meet in January to sort it out but it should not have happened. The Commissioner also promised that action would be taken against Iceland and Faros for their reckless and irresponsible behaviour in setting autonomous mackerel quotas that are not in accordance with international agreements. This action would entail closing Community ports to fish and fishery products caught outside these international agreements.

The allocation of boarfish for the first time proved to be very difficult with the Commission and certain Member States trying to totally discredit our track record (see Editorial, page four). In the end, a satisfactory compromise was agreed with our share set at 67 per cent. Not at the top end of our track record but close enough. The TAC of 33,000t is based on an interim management plan (see article page three). It is hoped that the scientific information will be sufficiently advanced next year to develop a long-term management plan. The Commission also declared its intention to legally sort out the mesh size issue early in 2011. In the meantime the mesh size that applies is 100mm. Pat "the Cope" has already submitted an amendment which hopefully will yield the desired result by mid-year.

The new management areas agreed last year for horse mackerel remain in place with nearly all our quotas in the two areas now in the new western area where we have real fishing opportunities. It is again extremely disappointing and difficult to understand why our herring quota in VIa South VIIbc was cut by a massive 40 per cent. This implies that the herring stock is in a worse state than cod in VIa. The Pelagic Regional Advisory Council advice was again ignored. The Atlanto Scandia herring agreed at the Coastal States meeting in October is showing, as expected, a 33 per cent reduction. Similarly, the massive 85 per cent cut in blue whiting was expected since October. However, this does not make it any easier to accept, particularly as it is based on dubious science. One ray of hope is that the focus group in the Pelagic RAC and the NEAFC Working Group will resolve the scientific uncertainty.

Deepwater

The deepwater Irish quotas shown above right, were agreed at the November Fisheries Council for the next two-year period. Ireland no longer has deepwater vessels, and given the quotas that are available (see table) in 2011 and 2012 it is just as well. Some of these quotas will be a valuable source of currency for swapping during the year.

In conclusion, a reasonable deal was achieved that will sustain not only the Irish fleet but also the stocks. The efforts of Ministers Connick and Smith, and their officials, in this regard have to be acknowledged.

PELAGIC STOCKS

SPECIES	ICES Area	Quota 2010	Quota 2011	Diff %
Mackerel ¹	VI, VII	62641	68700	10%
H. Mackerel ²	Ila, IVa, VI, VIIa-c, Vlle-k, VIIla,b,e	40775	40439	-1%
H. Mackerel ³	IVb, IVc, and VIId	1313	1243	-5%
Blue Whiting ⁴	I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII a,b,d,e, XII, XIV	7843	1187	-85%
Herring ⁵	I, II	8563	5705	-33%
Herring ⁶	VIaN	3589	3286	-8%
Herring	VIaS, VIIbc	6774	4065	-40%
Herring	VIIa	1250	1375	10%
Herring	VII ghjk	8770	11407	30%
Tuna ⁷	north.atl	4354	3554	-18%
Argentines	III, IV	8	8	0%
Argentines	V, VI, VII	360	331	-8%
Boar Fish	VI, VII, VIII	n/a	22227	n/a
Total		146,240	163,527	12%

Footnotes for 2011 pelagic quotas

1. Provisional quota (54,861t) to be decided by May 31, 2011. Of which 22074 tonnes (provisional) may be fished from January 1 to February 15 and September 1 to December 31, 2011 in EU and Norwegian waters of ICES division IVa.
2. Provisional quota to be decided by May 31, 2011. 5 per cent of this quota fished in areas II & IVa before June 30 may be attributed to IVb, IVc & VIId. Advance notification necessary.
3. New management area including VIId and excluding IVa.
4. Of which 68 per cent can be fished in Norwegian waters.
5. 90 per cent of EU TAC of 64319 t may be taken in Norwegian waters north 62°N and around Jan Mayen.
6. Provisional quota to be decided by may 31, 2011.
7. Maximum 50 licences Ireland.

DEEPWATER SPECIES

SPECIES	Ices Area	Comparing			Comparing	
		2010	2011	2010 to 2011	2012	2010 to 2012
Black Scabbard	V, VI, VII, XII	73	67	-8%	62	-15%
Roundnose Grenadier	Vb, VI, VII	216	190	-12%	165	-24%
Roundnose Grenadier	VIII, IX, X, XII, XIV	7	6	-14%	6	-14%
Orange Roughy	VI	0	0	0%	0	0%
Orange Roughy	VII	0	0	0%	0	0%
Orange Roughy	I, II, III, IV, V, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, XIV	0	0	0%	0	0%
Blue Ling	II, IV, V	4	4	0%	4	0%
Red Seabream	VI, VII, VIII	6	6	0%	6	0%
Alfonsinos	I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XII, XIV	10	10	0%	10	0%
Forkbeards	V, VI, VII	260	260	0%	260	0%
Deep Sea Sharks	V, VI, VII, IX	0	0	0%	0	0%
Deep Sea Sharks	XII	0	0	0%	0	0%
TOTALS		576	543	-6%	513	-11%

MESH TRIALS AND OBSERVER PROGRAMME SHOW CASE FOR EXEMPTION FROM EFFORT RESTRICTIONS IN AREA VIA

In October 2010 trials were carried out by BIM on-board the MFV "Foyle Warrior" on the Stanton Banks and Barra Head grounds in Area VIa. The objective of the trials was to provide the basis for a case to be made for a derogation for Irish vessels from the current mesh size regulations in VIa of 120mm/120mm square mesh panel (smp) to 110mm/120mm smp. It was anticipated that the proposed gear combination would reduce losses and rate of damage to megrim, ensuring economic viability for these vessels, while not having an adverse impact on cod, haddock and whiting stocks that are in poor condition.

The trials showed that when using the 120mm, codend catches of megrim, hake, haddock and whiting were reduced, although the reductions in megrim catches (~7 per cent by weight) were not as sizeable as found in trials carried out on the "Green Isle" in 2009 (-22 per cent). Overall, the estimated reduction in earnings, with the 120mm compared to the 110mm, was six per cent compared with 16 per cent found on the "Green Isle." Damage to megrim was reduced with the 110mm, with average damage rates per tow at eight per cent with the 110mm and 16 per cent with the 120mm; although in practice it was

difficult to assess. Catches of cod, haddock and whiting combined were shown to be well below the 30 per cent threshold stipulated in the regulation, and on the latest trials with both gear combinations these species make up less than two per cent of the total catch, with cod catches making up less than 0.5 per cent. This is supported by data from observer trips carried out by BIM and the Marine Institute since August 2010. Approximately 30 days have been observed mainly inside the 200m line, and as with the trials, cod catches have been consistently low, well below the 1.5 per cent threshold.

In summary the results from the 110mm vs 120mm comparison show less of a difference between the gears than previous work in 2009. However, what the trials and observer trips have shown is that there are grounds for seeking an exemption from effort restrictions for vessels operating in VIa under the provisions of Article 11 of the cod regulation. BIM and the Marine Institute have committed to working on this during the first quarter of 2011 but it is essential, however, that the observer programme continues in order to prove that cod catches are consistently low.



Whilst the KFO Boarfish project is progressing well, it will be a few months until the necessary data are available to develop a comprehensive

management plan. However, the Precautionary Approach to Fisheries Management (PAFM) states that lack of information should not prevent the implementation of management measures. In an effort to bring the fishery into management, an interim management plan was developed with a suggested TAC for 2011 set in the range 21,000-32,000 t, 50-75 per cent of the recent average yield 2007-2009. This TAC would be a significant reduction on the current landings although it would help ensure the future of the fishery. The TAC for 2012 would then be altered depending on a number of stock indicators. The interim management plan also stipulates a number of other measures including a closed season from March 15 to August 31, to avoid mackerel by-catch; and a closed area in VIIg from September 1 to October 31, to avoid Celtic Sea herring by-catch. If the by-catch of quota species such as mackerel and horse mackerel exceeds five per cent of the total catch by day by ICES statistical rectangle, then fishing must cease in that

rectangle. Vessels participating in the fishery for boarfish shall only land in designated ports and must facilitate in every way possible scientific studies to improve the information available to evaluate stock productivity and status.

The Commission asked STECF to provide advice on the boarfish fishery and suggest management measures. STECF concluded that, given the current lack of information on northeast Atlantic boarfish, it was impossible to give advice on catch options that were consistent with either precautionary reference points or in relation to maximum sustainable yield. However precautionary measures should be initiated until sufficient information is available to assess the stock and a TAC should be implemented in 2011 at a level corresponding to a substantial reduction in catch over recent years. The PAFM requires that fishing should not proceed unless accompanied by scientific studies to indicate what sustainable harvest rates should be. This has placed greater emphasis on the KFO's boarfish project and this initiative was acknowledged in the STECF report. Perhaps the most notable recommendation of STECF was that a mesh size of c.45mm is appropriate for this fishery.

The proactive development of the boarfish project by the KFO and the advanced stage of the data gathering will certainly help to achieve sustainable management of this fishery and hopefully next year yield positive results.

Long Term Management Plans for Haddock in the West of Scotland and Rockall

Over the past few years, the EU has been developing and implementing long term management plans for a number of fish stocks. These are becoming increasingly common and stocks such as cod, North Sea haddock, sole and plaice are all now subject to such plans.

At the core of these are Harvest Control Rules, which 'automatically' determine how much can be removed from a stock or can be taken each year. This works by agreeing and fixing the proportion of the stock that can be removed – the fishing mortality rate. This governs the amount of TAC, which depends on the estimated size of the stock. This essentially automates how and what the TAC is set at each year. Harvest Control Rules generally have conditions that dampen year-to-year fluctuations in TAC form but in some cases also have provisions so that when a stock is estimated to be below desired levels, the TAC can be adjusted further. Management plans for Rockall (VIb) and West of Scotland (VIa) haddock stocks are currently in their final stages.

The West of Scotland plan has not fully been evaluated by ICES and is still awaiting the STECF opinion on the economic impact assessment recently undertaken by the Seafish Industry Authority. Due to lack of Irish economic data, this evaluation has only considered the impact on the UK (Scottish) fleet. While the plan is not fully enshrined in law, the Harvest Control Rule is currently being used by the European Commission as the basis for setting the 2011 TAC.

The Rockall haddock plan has been subject to a more lengthy process. Since the economic zone boundary shifts in 1999, the tail of the Rockall bank moved into international waters and is now subject to international agreements under NEAFC. This has meant that any agreement on the management of Rockall haddock has been done under joint discussion with the Russian Federation. Since 2002, there have been a number of meetings to try to agree a common management approach to the straddling (EU and international waters) stock at Rockall. The preferred management approach taken by the EU and Russia differs - Russia has advocated closed areas to protect juveniles while the EC focus is on the use of TACs and minimum mesh and landing sizes. There have been lengthy discussions on the merits of the two approaches from a scientific perspective and until recently, there has been little progress on how to use this information from a management perspective. However, during the last EU/Russian Federation meeting, there was agreement to progress with a management plan based around the use of a harvest control rule, while maintaining the current haddock box. This proposal has now been submitted to NEAFC for consideration and if passed, will result in a TAC setting mechanism based on fishing mortality rule (similar to the VIa plan) with a rule that limits the year-to-year TAC change. Although the mechanics are different, the result in practice is similar, in that the plan avoids wide swings in TAC from year to year.

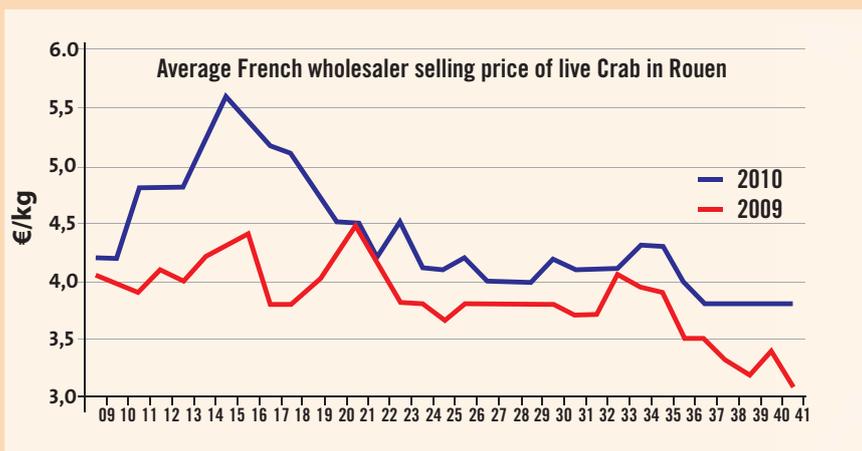
The Crustacean Sector: Update

December is the most important month in the calendar for shellfish. The Christmas and New Year markets are at the peak of demand and price, particularly for live crustaceans. The expansion of sales, of what was once a speciality product, into the supermarket arena is a double-edged sword for fishermen. The target market is increased but the product is also the preserve of the supermarket pricing system, which tends to drive down the return to producers. These multinational companies source product on a global scale and will very quickly find a replacement for any local product which does not fit the pre-requisite pricing profile.

The brown crab industry has been endeavouring to bring a degree of control to the market by managing landings. It is not an enterprise which will succeed overnight given the complexity of a fishery being accessed by several member states and different sectors within each member state. However there is evidence that any effort to reduce product on the market is reflected in improved prices.

It is unfortunate that this positive trend may not be maximised this Christmas. Western Europe has been swept by the worst winter weather in several decades, which has brought chaos to transport and shoppers alike. The vivier companies in north-west France are struggling to keep stock turning over and are, understandably, wary of not being able to move live crustaceans on during the holiday period. There is still time for a last-minute surge to carry the price towards €3.00 per Kg but it is a very unpredictable picture this year.

The development of the BIM Seafood Standard, which certifies observance of environmentally managed systems of fishing and care of the catch (SEMS), has taken a major step forward regarding brown crab fishing. The vivier crabber "Amy Jane" has been carrying out a pilot SEMS over the autumn months and has recently completed an inaugural audit which will endorse the achievement of SEMS. The lessons learnt from this pilot will enable the rapid uptake of SEMS by both the vivier and inshore fleets in coming months ensuring a supply of Irish certified crab on international markets in the near future.



Comparison of Live Crab Prices in 2009 and 2010 (Source: Bord Bia, Paris)

Editorial

by Sean O'Donoghue

CHIEF EXECUTIVE, KFO

KFO

News

The lack of consultation by Commissioner Damanaki in the lead up to this year's December Fisheries Council was very disappointing, and without doubt was a major contributor to a protracted and very difficult Council. Unlike previous years, it was the middle of November before the Commission's proposals were released and no meaningful consultation was undertaken with the stakeholders. This calls into question the Commission's stated commitment to the active participation of stakeholders in the decision making process, and is unacceptable. A continuation of this attitude by the Commissioner does not bode well for her forthcoming key proposals on the reform of the common fisheries policy and common organisation of the markets in the first half of 2011.

On page one you will see the whitefish Irish quotas for 2011 compared with 2010, and page two shows the table of Irish pelagic and deepwater quotas. The deepwater TACs and quotas are set every two years, this being the first year of the two-year cycle. The TACs and quotas proposals produced by the Commission contained a number of totally unacceptable measures from an Irish industry perspective, such as the setting of seven new TAC areas (seven functional units) for nephrops in area VII instead of the existing one TAC area; the introduction of effort limitation in the Celtic sea; the huge reductions in certain whitefish and pelagic stocks; and the absence of Hague preferences which gives Ireland additional quotas in many key stocks.

One key issue for Ireland not included in the proposals, but tabled during the Council was the setting of a TAC and quotas for boarfish. Ireland, and to a lesser extent Denmark, over the last number of years have developed a valuable fishery worth in the region of €16 million to Ireland in 2010. In addition, the KFO has contracted a scientist who is working with the Marine Institute to investigate the biology and to develop a management plan. It is incredible that the Commission and certain Member States tried to deny Ireland our rightful share based on our track record. Both Ministers Connick and Smith successfully resisted this and achieved a satisfactory 67 per cent share for Ireland. This recognises our track record and will stand us in good stead for the future. The overall TAC based on an interim management plan (see article page three) is set at a level of 33,000 tonnes which only equates to approximately 25 per cent of the catches in 2011. However, I am hopeful that the next year's scientific research will yield positive results; confirming a large stock of young maturing fish, thus enabling the setting of higher TACs in future years.

The good news prior to the start of the Council was that the EU and Norway had agreed a TAC of 646,000 tonnes. This equates to a 10 per cent increase in the Irish quota, however due to the incompetence of the Commission only 80 per cent of the Irish quota was issued with the remainder to be sorted out in the New Year. This is not a cause for concern, however it should not have happened and blame here lies solely with the Commission. During her welcome address at Council, the Commissioner stated that she plans to take concrete action against Iceland and the Faros for setting unjustified autonomous mackerel quotas of 138,000 in the case of Iceland, and yet unspecified amount by the Faros, for 2011. She envisages banning fish and fishery products caught by these countries that are not in accordance with international agreements.

The outcome of the Council was satisfactory in relation to nephrop, with the deletion of the functional units and the setting of one TAC for area VII with special provision for the Porcupine. It was also very important that the effort cap proposed for the Celtic sea was removed and that our Hague preferences were honoured. It was very disappointing that herring in VIa South VIIbc was cut by 40 per cent. This cut is unjustified, and it is plain wrong.

I am very concerned at the deepening effects of a further 25 per cent cut for 2011 in demersal effort (kwdays at sea) in the Irish Sea and the North West, which if continued will lead to there being no fishing industry at all in these areas in the future. A new way forward based on exemptions (see article page two) must be found to maintain a viable whitefish fleet in these areas. In addition, the illogical and unjustified technical conservation regulations in the specified area of VIa in the North West have to be changed otherwise it will continue to be impossible for the whitefish vessels to operate in this area.

The draft implementing rules produced by the Commission relating to the control regulation which were due to be adopted in early December have been deferred to the start of March. I am not surprised at this, as some of the proposals were totally unworkable such as weighing and power provisions. Let's hope that common sense prevails.

Finally on behalf of all the KFO staff I would like to wish all our members a very happy Christmas and prosperous fishing 2011. I look forward to continue to work with you to address the many challenges that lie ahead particularly the CPF reform in order to achieve a sustainable and profitable Irish fishing industry.

Roll Out of Electronic Recording and Reporting System Picks Up Pace

An Implementation Group comprising the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (DAFF), the Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA), the Department of Defence and the Naval Service is overseeing the roll out of the new Electronic Recording and Reporting System (ERS). The SFPA is responsible for providing the fishing vessel element of Ireland's ERS solution, while DAFF is responsible for the shore-based element, known as the ERS Hub. This project began almost two years ago, and its aim of finding a solution that would provide good value for money, and minimise the ongoing operational costs for the fisherman and the State, is now being successfully delivered.

The fishing vessel element of the system is known as the ERS Terminal. It consists of the hardware, software and communications components required to record logbook data on the fishing vessel and transmit this data to the ERS Hub. The first phase of the ERS project involved the installation of ERS terminals on approx. 80 Irish fishing vessels registered over 24 metres. This work is now complete. During 2010 the SFPA provided training for approximately 170 fishermen in how to operate the new ERS system. All skippers have now undertaken the training and registered with the SFPA/DAFF. The second phase will involve approximately 120 vessels between 15 and 24 metres in length, which will be fitted with terminals by July 1, 2011. Over the following six months, the third phase will see a further 80 vessels over 12 metres becoming ERS compliant by the January 1, 2012 deadline. Training will also be provided in 2011.

In developing the software, the project team wanted to make sure that it was as user-friendly as possible. For most fishermen, the transition from the paper logbook to the ERS is relatively straightforward. The fishing industry is no stranger to technology and has shown itself to be very adept at using the most advanced technologies available. In a nod to tradition, a design feature is included which allows the skipper to view the electronic logbook in the "old paper logbook style." At any stage in the fishing trip, the skipper can switch between the two views. .

From February 1 2011 all EU and Irish fishing vessels greater than 24 metres in length will require a functional ERS when operating in Norwegian waters.

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