



Helvick
AN Rinn
Dungarvan
Co Waterford.
1-11-2009.

Cecif A Chara.

At a recent meeting of the Irish Fishermen's Organisation we discussed some of the main concerns within the industry. We would be grateful if you would consider taking some of our concerns into account when you make your submissions to Mr Cawley re the CFP.

Decommissioning. It is not good to see boats go out of the industry as we feel that Ireland has a very small fleet for an Island with such resources on its door step and one of the biggest coastal communities in Europe. But unfortunately there are some fishermen which due to financial matters and the uncertainty as to where the industry is going would decommission if available.

2. Mesh size should be increased to 100mm it is felt that the size of the mesh needs to be increased but only if ALL EU fleets that work within the Irish territorial waters do so. We can no longer have one rule for the Irish fishing industry and another for the French and Spanish etc.

3. The Hague preferences need to remain in place as this is of hugh importance to Ireland.

4. We would be opposed to ITQ. As we feel this would do terrible damage to the industry.

5 The introduction of the electronic log book plus the non tamper VMS must be implemented by all fishing boats working in Irish waters.

It is public knowledge that the Spanish fishing fleets returning to Spain have little if any port inspection and the introduction of the electronic log book will make no difference to the amount of compliance among the Spanish fleet. We must demand control for all boats entering Irish territorial waters, that all EU boats hail into the closest naval or SFPA office e.g. Castletownbere on the south west or Cork on the south coast and all catch should be inspected.

That each state is responsible for its fisheries this is the only way that we can conserve and protect our industry in to the future but we need fairness and a level playing field for Irish fishermen.

Morale is very low within the Irish fishing industry at the moment as fishermen see very little hope for the future. We need to put the fishing industry on a more stable footing. In order to do this we need to find confidence and hope for the future and an industry that people are again willing to invest in. All our futures depend on it.

. The industry has had to face high oil prices cuts in quota and at the moment boats are trying to pass a code of practice that is costing up to 60- 100 thousand euro per boat with very little chance of getting money from the banks. Some boats could go out of business.

Lets insure in the future that the same rules are enforced on all fishermen and that we in Ireland not have to endure more hardship that our counterparts in Europe.


If you need any clarification on any of these points please contact

Ebbie Sheehan 087 2648559

Is Mise Le Meas

Caitlin Uí Aodha.

Secretary IFO.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Caitlin Uí Aodha", written in dark ink over the printed name.