



MINISTER LAUNCHES NEW JOBS INITIATIVE FOR KILLYBEGS

A very positive outcome from the launch of the Killybegs Case Study Report (see article to right) was the announcement by Minister Simon Coveney TD of a Job Creation Initiative which aims to create 250 additional jobs by 2014. Minister Coveney called for "greater integration and 'joined up thinking' from state agencies in the region," and to ensure this happens he announced the establishment of a High Level Group with the task of fast-tracking the job creation scheme.

The High Level Group on Job Creation, to be chaired by Sean O'Donoghue, will consist of eight members representing all the relevant local agencies including Donegal County Council, Bord Iascaigh Mhara, Letterkenny Institute of Technology, Enterprise Ireland, the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine, Donegal Fish Merchants Association and Sinbad Marine, representing the offshore sector. Under the Terms of Reference set out by the Minister, the Group will prepare a Report by the end of September which will:

- identify a course of action to deliver 250 jobs in the Killybegs region over the next three years in the five key areas described in the Killybegs Case Study Report as suitable for growth;
- identify and recommend solutions to issues in the key areas which are currently impeding growth and job creation;
- identify a partnership model of co-ordinated activity focused on local resources involving all relevant stakeholders which holds potential to deliver on the job creation potential identified across the five areas, and;
- identify how the actions required to release the job creation potential identified could be delivered on a cost-neutral basis from within existing budget allocations through adopting a co-ordinated and collaborative approach.

The five key areas which the Group will focus on in its series of actions to deliver the 250 jobs are:

1. Actions to promote Seafood value-added activity.
2. Actions to enhance Ancillary Services.
3. Actions to develop Offshore Supplies.
4. Actions to promote Tourism and Marine Leisure.
5. Actions to promote the Green Economy and Renewable Energy.

The Group has a challenging task to meet the end-of-September deadline to report back to the Minister, but those concerned are already aware of the potential in the action areas. As Ireland's largest port, Killybegs is an obvious choice for the location of a BIM Seafood Development unit; the infrastructure is already in place with Killybegs Catering College, a constituent college of Letterkenny Institute of Technology. Such a marriage of practical and academia should be capable of innovation on several levels producing new products, improved route-to-market and better use of existing resources.

Likewise, the further development of ancillary services, both for fishing and offshore oil and gas production, and promotion of the Killybegs area for maritime leisure are not new concepts, but what is new and what will make a difference is the co-ordinated approach.

This jobs initiative is most welcome and will give a much needed boost to employment that has been in severe decline over the last number of years. It is incumbent on all concerned that real and sustainable jobs are delivered. The indomitable spirit of the area will re-assert itself and, driven by the urgency instilled by the Minister's action of appointing the High Level Group, there will be 250 new jobs in Killybegs in the not too distant future.

Case Study Shows Impact of CFP in Killybegs

The Killybegs Case Study Report on "Assessment of the status, development and diversification of fisheries-dependent communities" was launched on Friday June 3, 2011 in The Tara Hotel. The report was compiled through the joint collaboration between Poseidon (Aquatic Resource Management Ltd), BIM, KFO and Mr Art Kavanagh, Consultant to the KFO, as part of an impact assessment study on the CFP Review carried out by the Commission.

The socio-economic fallout in fishery-dependent maritime communities, due to changes made by the EU Commission under the CFP, has long been a source of annoyance and worry among many stakeholders. In an effort to quantify and address the impact of the CFP on fisheries-dependent communities, the Commission undertook a study of 24 such communities from a wide-ranging geographical spread across the EU. The study focused on an in-depth analysis of their strengths and weaknesses, their current socio-economic status, their response to declining fishing opportunities and diversification into other sectors. The Killybegs Report was part of this process and is valuable not only for its precise local analysis, but its positioning of Killybegs against a wider European backdrop.

In the course of his opening remarks at the launch event, Michael Keatinge (BIM) drew favourable comparisons between Killybegs and the other fishing ports included in the study. While Killybegs has one of the lowest populations, its fishermen enjoy a high productivity level, the key target pelagic species are in a stable condition and Killybegs itself is described as having "state of the art" landing and handling facilities. Landings have remained relatively stable and have increased in value, but while the overall economic turnover has increased, employment has decreased in both fishing and processing sub-sectors. The study highlights the very high dependency of Killybegs on fishing – it comes second highest among the 24 areas surveyed – which leaves Killybegs very vulnerable to a downturn in its fisheries.

While the overall project sought to amalgamate the findings from the 24 case studies and draw conclusions based on the common elements wherever possible, the information contained in the individual case studies is very valuable in its local context. The Killybegs Case Study provides concise reference data regarding fishing activities, processing, ancillary industries, the trends in volumes and values and the employment they generate. It also identifies emerging sectors such as tourism, particularly maritime-based tourist activities, support for oil and gas production and the spin-off effect of more vibrant retail and service sectors.

The town owes much of its importance as a fishing port to its geographical advantages – adjacent to major fishing grounds, its location in a natural harbour and a year round temperate climate. However, there is also an ethos of resilience and independence in the local population which has sustained it through many setbacks and distinguishes it from other maritime communities where diminishing fishing opportunities have wreaked havoc. This Report points the way to alternative activities in the Killybegs area and of course they must be pursued and exploited to their full potential but Killybegs' vision of its future is one of a sustainable and economically viable fishing industry. This report should prove to be a valuable source of detail, important for use in developing Ireland's case for a better deal in context of forthcoming Commission's proposals on the CFP Review.



Pictured at KFO meeting with the Minister were from left, Norah Parke, Ted Breslin, Eamon McHugh, Martin Howley, Michael Cavanagh, Pauric Conneely, Minister Simon Coveney, Sean O'Donoghue, Hugh Mc Bride (back row), Dinny McGinley and Cathal Boyle (back row).

We are now at that time of year when brown crab prices slump and demand is very poor on the live market. Since Easter, there has been very little buoyancy on European markets and bad weather has kept many of the inshore fleet in port. Processed crab seems to be in reasonable demand and many of the processing plants have been buying earlier than usual which is a help but there is still a great need for some overall planning in the industry.

The KFO was represented at the Mid-Channel Conference in Cherbourg by Hugh McBride and Norah Parke. Ian Lawler, BIM, also attended and gave a presentation on the proposed ACRUNET (Interreg IVB Atlantic Area) project. ACRUNET (see article page three) proposes to co-ordinate the activities of the crab industry on a trans-national basis by managing effort and improving prices. Networking is the core of this project, but the planned activities for marketing, quality improvement, eco-labelling, and improved route to market efficiencies will also have a major positive impact. The application was submitted by BIM, the lead partner, on April 30, 2011.

The EU Commission has published Regulation No. 404/2011 (see article above), where the definition of "Passive Gear" has been widened to include pots and traps. This has serious implications for all who use pots, especially those operating outside 12 nautical miles. The KFO is actively involved in trying to affect changes to this rule in advance of it coming into force on January 1, 2012.

KFO AGM

The KFO held its Annual General Meeting on May 27, 2011 in Bruach na Mara. The Board then met to elect a Chairman and co-opt Directors onto the Board.

The new Board of Directors is as follows:

Hugh McBride, Chairman;

Martin Howley Vice Chairman;

Members: Cathal Boyle, Jens Bach, Kevin McCloskey, Eamonn McHugh Jnr, Pauric Conneely Michael Cavanagh, Tony Byrne.

KFO Meets Minister Coveney

The KFO met with Minister Coveney at Bruach Na Mara, Killybegs on June 3, 2011. The meeting was very useful as it give the KFO the opportunity to outline directly to the Minister a number of very important issues which needed to be addressed in the near future and in the long term. Some of the general issues discussed were, the CFP review, COM review, control implementing rules, and discards. A number of sectoral issues were also discussed which included, mackerel - International and National, boarfish fishery and science, herring fisheries, amendments to cod regulation, funding monkfish survey VIa, haddock management plan, brown crab management and new rules for marking static gear.

The control implementing rules (404/2011) entered into force on May 7. These are detailed rules covering a wide range of issues that were identified in the framework control regulation (1224/2009) that entered into force on January 1, 2010. Even though these rules are covered in the framework document they did not enter into force until the set of detailed rules was agreed. This has now happened with the publication on April 30. The FIF has been working with the SFPA to produce a summary to try to clarify the main changes and the timetable in the implementation rules. The following are some of the main changes.

Logbook

The margin of tolerance for all species recorded in your EU fishing vessel logbook, both paper and electronic, for all catches of over 50kg is now standardised at 10 per cent from May 7, for all species of fish for all areas.

Discards

All estimated discards for any species greater than 50kg must now be recorded in your EU fishing vessel logbook, both paper and electronic, from May 7.

Marking of Passive Gears (Inshore i.e. inside 12nm)
Pots and traps are now included as passive gears. Each set of passive gear used for fishing must permanently display the external registration letters and numbers of the vessel to which it belongs. This must be displayed on a label (65mm x 75mm), made of durable material and securely fitted to the gear.

Marking of Passive Gears (Offshore i.e. outside 12nm)

All fishing passive gears used in waters outside the 12nm limit must deploy marker bouys showing the external registration letters and numbers of the vessel to which they belong. The bouys must be flagged and lit with radar reflectors attached.

The rules for the marking of passive gears both inshore and offshore come into effect on January 1, 2012.

Weighing of landed fish

■ There is no change to the existing requirement to weigh cod or hake on landing prior to transport. This weighing requirement will now be for the buyer/transporter to complete.

■ The new requirements will be that all caught fish must be weighed either:

- On landing at the quayside;
- On-board the fishing vessel prior to landing;
- After transport to the processor/buyer; and
- subject to sampling and control plans.

■ Onboard weighing prior to landing may also be accepted subject to an approval by SFPA of the on-board system.

■ Weighing can only be conducted on a scale or system approved by the National Metrology Service.

The rules on weighing on landing will be applied from November 7, 2011.

Transport Documents

■ All fish, which are to be transported from the place of landing prior to first sale, must have a transport document or equivalent, which must be returned to the SFPA within 48 hrs after loading.

■ The content and submission of the transport document is the responsibility of the transporter.

ERS and VMS

■ Fishing vessels between 12 and 15 metre must have a working Electronic logbook (ERS) and Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) from January 1, 2012.

Inspection Reports

■ A copy of the report of all full inspections completed at sea or ashore will now be provided within 15 days to the vessel owner.

■ This report will detail all aspects of the inspection carried out.

Automatic Identification System (AIS)

AIS must be fitted to all fishing vessels as follows:

- For vessels greater than 24m, this will be required from May 31, 2012;
- For vessels 18m to 24m, this will be required from May 31, 2013; and
- For vessels 15m to 18m, this will be required from May 31, 2014.

Certification and Verification of Engine Power

The Irish implementation plan for the detailed rules on certification and verification of engine power has not yet been issued. There are a number of specific dates and criteria set out in the detailed rules which are summarised below.

Certification Maximum Continuous Power:

- Effort vessels January 1, 2012;
- All other vessels January 1, 2013; and
- Certification only applies to new, replaced or modified engines after May 7, 2011.

Verification Maximum Continuous Power:

- Verification applies to all vessels;
- Sampling plan established to identify the risk of under-declaration; and
- Risk criteria set out for sampling plan.

ICES ISSUES ADVICE FOR DEMERSAL AND HERRING STOCKS FOR 2012

On June 29 ICES released its advice on stocks that were assessed in the first half of the year. This advice covers most of the stocks of Irish interest, with the exception of mackerel, boarfish, scad, Atlanto-Scandian herring, blue whiting and spurdog, for which advice will be issued in September. ICES will also provide advice for other new species, although it is unclear when or how (red and grey gurnard and sea bass).

This advice is based on "Maximum Sustainable Yield" (MSY). If the appropriate information is not available, ICES issues advice under the heading of "Precautionary Considerations".

The most noteworthy advice is for cod in the Celtic Sea. ICES departed from its own rules and advised a TAC for 2012 of 10,000t, a 148 per cent increase on 2011. This is based on a very strong year class coming in. ICES urges caution however, because the stock size may be overestimated. Haddock in the Celtic Sea also has special advice. Though the advice is that the catch in 2012 should not increase, it is noted that fishing at the current scale could lead to huge increases in catch. Again this is due to an incoming year class. It was strongly advised that additional Technical Conservation Measures (TCMs) be introduced immediately to protect the strong incoming year class.

Zero-catch-advice, or its equivalent "reduce to lowest possible level" was again given for cod in VIa and cod and whiting in VIIa, the only stocks for which this type of advice was given.

Advice to reduce catches was given for the following stocks: herring (VIaS/VIIbc) Nephrops (SW and SE Irish coast); Nephrops (Celtic Sea, except Smalls); plaice (VIIIfg); plaice (VIIHjk); monkfish (VI/IV); monkfish (VII/VIIabde); megrim (VII/VIII). Reduce-catch advice was also given for haddock (VIIa) and whiting (VIa), but

with the additional advice that TCMs be introduced.

For another range of stocks, the advice was that catches should not increase: whiting, cod and megrim (VIb); sole (VIIIfg), sole (VIIHjk); sandeel (VI); megrim (IV/VIa); plaice (VIIbc); Nephrops (Porcupine); Nephrops (Donegal Bay and other areas not elsewhere mentioned) and herring (VIIaN). No-increase-in-catch advice was also given for plaice (VIIa) and whiting (Celtic Sea), with the additional advice that TCMs be introduced.

Only two stocks have advice based on long term management plans. For saithe (IV and VI) the EU-Norway plan results in advice for a TAC of less than 87,000t. For herring (VIaN) a TAC of 22,900t was advised. The long-term management plan for Celtic Sea herring, recently agreed by the Celtic Sea Herring Management Advisory Committee, gives a 30 per cent TAC increase for 2012. But because it was not formally evaluated yet, ICES gives straightforward MSY advice. In this case, ICES does include the committee's plan as one of several options. Similarly, the VIa haddock plan option is included, though the main advice is not based on this plan, as it is not formally agreed internally in the EC system.

ICES provided advice on what the TAC should be for 2012, for 16 stocks. Most of the Nephrops stocks have such advice: Eastern Irish Sea (960t); Western Irish Sea (9,800t); Aran Grounds (1,100t) and the Smalls (2,300t). For roundfish, MSY advice was provided for: hake (51,900t); haddock, VIa (10,200t); haddock, VIb (3,300t) and sole, VIIIfg (1,060t). For sole in the Irish Sea, advice was given as "transition" to MSY, as the stock is at a low level (TAC 2012 advice = 200t).

Two new species for advice in 2011 were pollock and sprat, for which the preliminary advice is that catches should not increase.

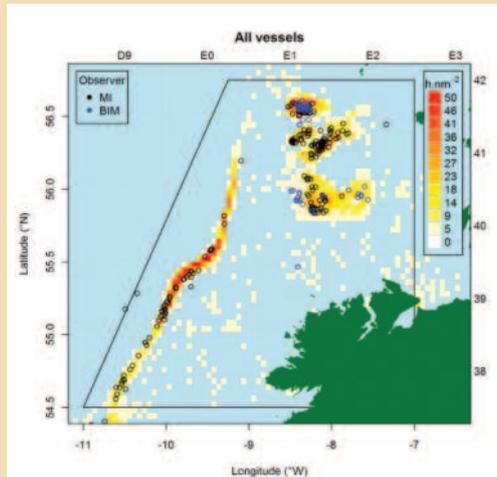
For the trawl fisheries operating in VIa, Irish vessels have avoided areas where they would have traditionally caught significant quantities of cod. At the core of the cod avoidance plan, a seasonal closed area was established (Cape Closure) from October 1-March 31 to all Irish vessels, irrespective of fishing method. This period coincides with peak cod catches. Historically, more than 40 per cent of Irish cod landings are attributed to the closed area and the closure has been used to retain Irish effort in VIa. This closure has been evaluated by the Commission and, together with the fishing effort west of the French line, has allowed Ireland to avoid 25 per cent annual reductions in fishing effort in VIa.

The cod plan also makes provision for Member States to submit a proposal to exclude certain groups of vessels for the effort regime, provided they can demonstrate that their cod catches are less than 1.5 per cent of the total catch. Cases are then submitted to the Commission, which seeks the advice of STECF (Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee on Fisheries), who then determine whether the conditions are met. Based on the advice of STECF, the Commission may then exclude the vessels from the effort regime. The conditions required to meet a positive evaluation are not trivial. To date STECF has evaluated 34 submissions from various Member States, but only six have been approved, one of which is the Irish vessels using Swedish grids in the prawn fishery in the Irish Sea. A considerable amount of information is required for these evaluations. It requires a representative catch monitoring information gathered by independent observers, as well as information on the type of gear, fishing area and the amount of effort put in by each vessel. The regulation is quite clear in that the information is based on catches not landings. As such, the only way to gather this is through the use of sea-going observers.

In 2010, data from the Marine Institute observer trips undertaken in VIa was assessed and confirmed that cod is a minor component of overall catches and less than 1.5 per cent of the total catch. In collaboration with the KFO and IFPO, the Marine Institute and BIM set about to enhance the level of observer coverage to see if an exemption case could be made for interested vessels. Based on previous experience, gaining exemption is not straight forward and a lot of background material must be gathered and analysed. STECF is also interested in the reason why cod catches are low. This can be achieved through technical modifications such as the use of the Swedish Grid in the Irish Sea, or that fishing takes place in areas outside the normal distribution of cod such as deepwater fisheries or because the stock is so depleted. It is therefore necessary to support any submission with the reasons why cod catches are low. The cod stock in VIa is severely depleted, so making an argument that cod catches are low because of another reason is difficult. This is where the Cape Closure is important. Observer data collected inside the Cape showed much higher cod catches than outside the closure, adding weight to the argument.

Based on the observer data already gathered, the Irish authorities put forward a case to the Commission seeking the exemption for the effort regime for five vessels; *Catherine R*, *Marliona*, *Northern Celt*, *Foyle Warrior*, and *Green Isle*. The case centred round the fact that the Cape Closure

was already in place and that using the VMS data from the individual boats overlaid with the positions of the tows measured by the Marine Institute and BIM observers, showed that the observer data was reflective of the normal fishing pattern and that cod catches are well below the 1.5 per cent threshold. In practice, the average cod catch was 0.7 per cent based on the observations from 184 hauls from 20 trips. The exemption case also specified the area under which the vessels are exempted. This is based on their VMS data.



VMS data from the five vessels, overlaid with the positions of hauls sampled by Marine Institute and BIM observers. The box shown in black is the area where exemption was applied.

One of the conditions of exemption is that, if successful, vessels are subject to ongoing monitoring and each year the authorities must submit a report that confirms that cod catches are still below the 1.5 per cent threshold. This report is then evaluated by STECF each year. In 2010, due to a lack of reporting and low observer coverage, one of the exemptions was revoked by the Commission.

The Irish submission for the five vessels was favourably evaluated by STECF in April. In summary, STECF agreed that the information presented was sufficient to show that cod catches were less than 1.5 per cent but there needs to be sufficient observer coverage in the future, and this needs to be compared to the VMS tracks to show that there is no difference between the observed and unobserved trips. At this stage, the main hurdle has been passed - the evaluation by STECF - and it is now up to the Commission to issue revision to the TAC and quota regulation where new effort allocations for Ireland will be specified. Normally this occurs in July or August.

The KFO is currently a partner in three applications being considered for EU funding – ACRUNET, MYFISH and FISHSAVE.

ACRUNET (Atlantic Crab Resource Users Network) is an INTERREG IVB Atlantic Area project in which the KFO will play a very important part. It has grown from the ad hoc trans-national Crab Group set up as a forum to improve dialogue between the Irish and United Kingdom crab fishing industry. It became obvious that a stronger and wider group was needed to address the many issues facing the industry in Ireland, UK and France and what started as an attempt to source some modest funding for market promotion has evolved into an exciting project with 15 high-caliber partners from Ireland, UK, France, Spain and Portugal.

MYFISH (Maximising Yield of Fisheries while Balancing Ecosystem, Economic and Social Concerns). The EU Commission has indicated its intention to implement the principle of Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) in the forthcoming reform of the Common Fisheries Policy, which could have serious consequences for many stakeholders. MYFISH is a Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) project which intends to explore the challenges posed by trying to operate MSY in reality, coming up with more realistic definitions of MSY and trying to answer how MSY-management can be implemented in an acceptable, operational and efficient manner. The KFO will represent a significant number of stakeholders in this project.

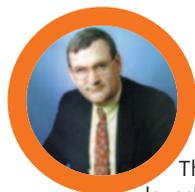
FISHSAVE (Training of Fisheries Professionals on Energy Efficiency) has been submitted under the Intelligent Energy – Europe (IEE) “Mobilising local energy investment.” The project aims to train fishing companies’ staff in energy efficiency. Training will include teaching them easy concepts, current advances and systems in order to save energy and decrease operating costs related to navigation and fishing operations. KFO will be directly involved in drawing up training materials and holding workshops/seminars to promote energy efficient practices. KFO members should be among the first to benefit from the expected fuel reductions.

Participating in these projects is a most effective way for an organisation such as the KFO to have its voice heard. Fishermen often feel the bureaucrats and scientists are completely remote from the real world when they devise policies and regulations which the fishing industry has to live with; by taking part in the research, the KFO can influence the direction taken and give realistic, first-hand feedback. This is a win-win situation for all concerned.

Editorial

by Sean O'Donoghue

CHIEF EXECUTIVE, KFO



The Killybegs jobs initiative launched by Minister Coveney (see article page one) on the June 3, is most welcome and is the dawning of a new integrated approach to job creation in the marine sector, not only in the Killybegs area, but also as a template to be used in other similar fishing dependent areas around the coast. The KFO in conjunction with Donegal County Council and BIM have been at the forefront in driving this initiative and requesting the Minister to embrace this new approach by setting up a High Level Group. The High Level Group appointed by the Minister has a very clear mandate and a tight timeframe of the end of September to produce a report for the Minister that will set out the required actions to deliver 250 sustainable jobs to the Killybegs region over the next three years. The Group has already started its work and as Chair, I am confident it can deliver on its mandate within the timeframe envisaged. Of course there are many difficulties to be addressed in the five key jobs potential areas identified, however with this new integrated approach it should be possible to identify and resolve these. Killybegs has suffered significant job losses over the last number of years that require a different approach to redress this decline. The present arrangements are not working and a new approach such as this jobs initiative is required.

The key driving force behind the Killybegs jobs initiative was the Killybegs case study report on the "Assessment of the status, development and diversification of fisheries-dependent communities" (see report page one). The Commission as part of its impact assessment of the CFP commissioned a report to quantify and address the effects of change on 24 fisheries-dependent communities. From a wide-

ranging geographical spread, these communities were selected for an in-depth analysis of their strengths and weaknesses, their current socio-economic status, their response to declining fishing opportunities and diversification into other sectors. The Killybegs Report was the outcome of this process and is valuable not only for its precise local analysis but its positioning of Killybegs against a wider European backdrop. The detailed information in the report provides for the first time a comprehensive database on socio-economic aspects and will be a valuable source of information for future Killybegs initiatives. The report points the way to alternative activities in the Killybegs area and of course they must be pursued and exploited to their full potential, but Killybegs' vision of its future is one of a sustainable and economically viable fishing industry. The jobs initiative recognises this conclusion, with the seafood sector targeted to provide two thirds of the jobs.

At the Fisheries Council in Luxembourg on June 28, Minister Coveney received support from a significant number of Member States in demanding strong action against Iceland and the Faroe Islands in the form of trade sanctions for their irresponsible and excessive mackerel fishing. The KFO has on several occasions called for the immediate ban on all fish and fishery products imported into the EU from Iceland and Faros as the only real effective measure and has articulated these views to the Minister. The

outcome of the Fisheries Council is a step in the right direction, in that the Commissioner agreed to bring forward proposals in the autumn on possible sanctions, with the possibility of an agreement at EU level (Council and Parliament) before the next year's season starts, albeit it should have happened last year. Iceland has set an autonomous quota for 2011 of 154,000tonnes and Faros 150,000t. Combined, this represents a 47 per cent share of recommended ICES TAC of 646,000t. Under the agreed management arrangements between EU, Norway and the Faros, the combined, percentage share up to 2009 was less than 5 per cent. This has to be stopped and we must continue at all levels to pursue appropriate actions, otherwise it is only a matter of time before a very healthy well managed stock will be put in jeopardy with very serious economic consequences for the Irish fishing and processing sectors.

The Commission issued its policy consultation document on fishing opportunities for 2012 and future years on May 25. This is an annual exercise that the Commission has undertaken over the last number of years, however this year it had totally changed its approach which, if adopted, will mean an automatic reduction of 25 per cent in the vast majority of TACs of interest to Ireland. The working method proposed by the Commission for setting TACs for next year is based on three categories rather than the 11 it proposed for 2011. These categories are: (1) to follow a management plan if it exists, (2) advice according to the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) framework and (3) where there is no scientific advice or where the data available are inadequate, a 25 per cent reduction will apply. In Ireland's case most of our stocks fall into category three meaning an automatic reduction of 25 per cent. This is a flawed approach that takes no account of stock trends such as stock size, abundance, fishing mortality rates or recruitment. For example, adopting this approach will lead to a 25 per cent reduction in Celtic Sea haddock for the next year, whereas the scientific short-term forecast is for a 300 per cent increase. This does not make sense and hopefully the Commission will modify the approach before they issue their TACs and quotas proposals for 2012, in autumn. We have already informed the Commission and the Minister of the flawed approach and the need for change.

The ICES scientific advice for demersal and herring stocks was issued on June 29 (see article page two.) The good news is that the scientific advice is recommending a huge increase of 150 per cent in the TAC for Celtic Sea cod for next year. It is encouraging that the advice is finally recognising what the industry has been saying for a number of years about abundance. In light of this advice, FIF has been in touch with Minister Coveney seeking an increase in the TAC for this year. Unfortunately for a large number of stocks of interest to Ireland, the advice recommends reducing catches, which in accordance with the Commission's fishing opportunities covered above, will translate into a 25 per cent reduction. It is likely that the Commission will propose additional measures for the Irish Sea as the advice is for zero catch of cod. The nephrops advice for area VII overall is showing a small increase of approximately three per cent. ICES does not give specific catch advice for the Porcupine.

Important Dates July - September 2011

DATE	MEETING	VENUE
July 5	ACFA Working Group III Markets	Brussels
July 5-7	NWWWRAC Working Groups, Excom & Focus Group	Dublin
July 8	Industry / Science Partnership	Dublin
July 13	Publication Commission's Proposals on CFP & COM Reviews	Brussels
July 13	Killybegs Jobs Initiative High Level Group	Killybegs
July 18-19	Fisheries Council	Brussels
July 21	Whitefish Quota Management	Dublin
August 6	Blessing of Fleet	Killybegs
August 23-29	ICES Working Group Widely Distributed Stocks	Copenhagen
September 1	Killybegs Jobs Initiative High Level Group	Killybegs
September 2	Seal Workshop	Galway (MI)
September 6	Extended Bureau EAPO	Brussels
September 6	Bureau ACFA	Brussels
September 7	Plenary ACFA	Brussels
September 8	NWWWRAC	Madrid
September 13	Working Groups 1 & 2 PELRAC	Amsterdam
September 14-16	ICES Advice Drafting Group Widely Distributed Stocks	Copenhagen
September 19-20	Fisheries Council	Brussels
September 27	Killybegs Jobs Initiative High Level Group	Killybegs
September 29-30	EAPO General Assembly & Members Meeting	Edinburgh

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