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SEA SOURCE/ ANIFPO

# News Net

## Fishermen's Welfare Alliance

The Fishermen's Welfare Alliance (FWA) exists to protect and promote the health, happiness and wellbeing of all UK fishermen. The aims of the FWA are:

- to ensure the industry benefits from continued access to markets domestically and internationally
- support owners and fishermen in complying with legislation for human and labour rights
- support the industry in long-term recruitment, retention and training to maintain a content and sustainable workforce.

Looking ahead, the FWA objectives for the next three months are:

- to continue to build up an understanding amongst government and parliamentarians to ensure a thriving future for UK fishing industry whilst maintaining the momentum on protecting the rights of non-EEA workers.
- Protect and promote the welfare of fishermen in the

UK and to support the fishing industry in developing and complying with national and international standards on working conditions and labour rights.

- Put policies in place to address the fact fewer people than ever are coming into the industry from traditional fishing communities along the UK coast.
- Work to make the industry attractive to new entrants through seeking support for apprenticeship and other training initiatives across the sector.
- Ensure fishermen currently entering the industry from other countries do so under transparent and effective migration routes.
- Sharing and promoting best practices and welfare standards internationally, whilst championing the UK as world leaders in the space.

They intend to reach these objectives by doing the following:

- Proactive civil service engagement
- Championing crew voice
- Collaborating with Fish Platform to organise an international conference to share the UK's best practice.
- Raising awareness amongst politicians, policy makers and the public.



## Landing Obligation—Irish Sea

From 1st January 2019 the landing obligation (or discard ban) applies to ALL quota species.

The core purpose of the Regulation is to minimize and avoid unwanted catches.

In the Irish Sea the biggest challenge comes with undersize whiting.

Whilst there has been a downward trend in catches of undersize whiting and the columns per vessel per haul are low, when added up across the fleet over the course of a year the volume and number of individual fish involved becomes very significant.

In recent years estimates of unwanted whiting catches

have ranged between 600 tonnes and 1,000 tonnes.

For the Irish Sea prawn fishery, whiting is known as a potential 'Choke' stock. In other words if the quota for whiting is exhausted then there is the potential to CLOSE the fishery for prawns, even if there is prawn quota remaining.

Whilst work is ongoing to resolve this issue administratively, there is an onus on industry to minimize/ avoid catches of undersize whiting and other unwanted species. Hence the reason for ongoing selective gear trials.

AFBI's quarterly 'heat map', which is based on recent historic records provides skippers with a prediction as to

where to expect undersize whiting during each quarter of the year. Of course skippers have a real time knowledge of the same, but the overall objective to encourage skippers to avoid areas where it is likely that high catches of undersize whiting will be made.

There are important points to consider whilst at sea, such as: ALL quota species must now be retained on board, recorded in logbooks, landed and counted against quota. However, there are some exemptions.

Please contact the ANIFPO office on 028 417 62855 for the full paper containing the important points to note at sea and onshore.



## Inshore Fisheries—Brown Crab Consultation

Following engagement with representatives from DAERA's Inshore Fisheries Partnership Group, concerns have been expressed regarding the health of the brown crab fishery. DAERA has been consulting on a range of measures relating to the future sustainability of the fishery. The measures include:

- Raising minimum landing sizes;
- Ban on landing of berried (egg carrying) crabs;
- Controls on levels of fishing effort; and
- Ban on deliberate declawing.

All stakeholders were invited to comment on and respond

to the consultation which ended on Thursday 27th June 2019 to help improve management and ensure a sustainable fishery for existing fishermen and future generations of fishermen to come.

We hope to receive an updated paper in the next few months outlining the exact measures to be put in place,

however, an exact date has not yet been set.

If you would like to find out more about the brown crab consultation or obtain a copy of the paper, please visit the ANIFPO office or call 028 417 62855.



## Fishing Industry Strategic Programme of Work

DAERA have formally appointed a Fisheries Project Director, Rod Cappell, to take forward the fishing industries strategic programme of work. This programme will examine the future development opportunities for the Northern Ireland Fish and Seafood Industry. Mr Cappell aims to explore the challenges and opportunities facing the industry and provide a substantive basis for future planning.

## Training Courses

### ANIFPO office is an STCW registered training centre

We run a variety of courses throughout the year. To register interest or book onto a course please call the ANIFPO Office on 028 417 62855.

Please see the list of courses available below:

- Fire Fighting and Prevention
- STCW Personal Survival Techniques (Sea Survival)
- STCW Elementary First Aid
- Safety Awareness and Accident Prevention
- Health and Safety for Fishermen


We can look into running other courses if there is sufficient interest.


## Sponsorship



**W**e were delighted to present Kilkeel Sea Cadets with two Stand Up Paddleboards on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

By supporting and sponsoring the cadets, Sea Source aim to encourage young people to have an interest in the fishing industry; promote safety at sea; help them to build life skills and make lifelong friendships.

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