



FARNET TRANSNATIONAL SEMINAR FOR FLAGS
VIGO (GALICIA), SPAIN 13 - 15 MARCH 2018
FLAGS and local resource management

Inshore Fisheries Forums

WEST FLAG

CONTEXT

- No formal structure existed for Inshore Sector
- The inshore fishing sector in Ireland has no way to formally input into decisions that impacted on their sector
- Over 1200 boats are in the Inshore Sector
- The sector is fragmented, mainly based in rural coastal communities
- No representative structure
- Sector perceived that the Inshore Sector had no input in decision-making
- Perceived lack of engagement by Regulatory and Development Authorities by sector

OBJECTIVES

- The Inshore Fisheries Forums are consultative forums at which members are representative of 'the inshore sector', fishermen using fishing boats of less than 12m overall length.
- The National Inshore Fisheries Forum (NIFF) provides a national platform on which each of the regional forums can interact with each other and with the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine, marine agencies and other Government Departments.
- The Regional Inshore Fisheries Forums (RIFF) provide formal engagement opportunities between inshore fishermen and other marine stakeholders.
- The Forums develop and facilitate implementation of measures designed to enable local fishermen, other fishermen who rely on local waters for their livelihood, and other persons with an interest to contribute to inshore fisheries management policies.

PARTNERS

- 6 FLAGS (facilitated the formation of the Regional Inshore Fisheries Forums)
- BIM (Irish Seafood Development Agency) (Administrative backup to Forums)
- Department of Agriculture, Marine, and Food(Legislation)
- Various Inshore Fisheries Co Ops/Associations (membership of forums)
- Other Marine Users: Aquaculture Sector, Marine Leisure, Environment, Sea Food Exporters

METHODOLOGY

- 6 Irish FLAGS were approached by Department Of Agriculture Food and Marine and BIM to:
- Facilitate the creation of the Inshore Fisheries Forums
- Local Co Ops/Associations were approached to nominate members to Forums
- Local meetings were held where there was no representative Co Ops/ groups. (Facilitated by FLAGS)
- Other Marine Users asked to participate in Forums
- Prospective names forwarded to FLAG Board to approve membership
- On approval Forums formed with initial meeting in November 2014
- Officers elected at initial meeting

Regional and National Forums

- Each **Regional Inshore Fisheries Forum** (RIFF) consist of no more than 12 members of which 8 are inshore fishermen and 4 from the aquaculture, environmental, marine leisure and seafood exporting.
- RIFFs may nominate a member to be on the relevant FLAG
- Each RIF will select its own chair and vice-chair, both of whom will also act as delegates to the National Inshore Fisheries Forum
- Each RIF may make recommendations on inshore fisheries management/conservation to the National Inshore Fisheries Forum
- The **National Inshore Fisheries Forum** (NIFF) consists of 2 delegates representing each of the Regional Inshore Forums (RIFFs)
- The NIFF will be an advisory forum, without statutory authority
- The NIFF may make recommendations on regional or national inshore fisheries management/conservation to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

RESULTS/ LESSONS LEARNED

Regional:

- Management/Conservation proposals forwarded to NIFF
- Regular meetings. Local issues discussed and solved
- Input into new National Inshore Strategy

National:

- Management /Conservation proposals forwarded to Government Department for legislative consideration
- Engagement with Regularity, Development and Scientific Agencies
- Example: Proposal from West RIFF to establish a minimum conservation reference size for Velvet Crab subsequently became legislation.
- Other conservation Initiatives/proposals from various RIFFS/NIFF
- Increase in the minimum conservation reference for Razor Clam and brown Crab
- National meetings of all Forums once a year.

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