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ISEFPO LTD



Opening Statement,
Irish South & East Fish Producers
Organisation (ISEFPO),
12-06-18

Denis O'Flaherty (Secretary) 086-2700925

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To Josie Briody
Clerk to the Joint Committee On Agriculture Food and The Marine.
Houses of the Oireachtas
Dublin 2.
8/6/18

RE; Island Fisheries(heritage Licence) Bill 2017

ISEFPO submission to the Joint Committee on Agriculture Food and the Marine.

Dear Chair

The ISEFPO wishes to thank you for the opportunity to present their views on the above Bill to the Committee.

As with all fishermen/women around our Coasts, we recognise the difficulties that Islanders face on a daily/Seasonal basis to make a living from fishing. Islands are the epitome of disadvantaged peripheral areas but this is also true of areas of the mainland, which in most cases are just a few miles or less from these Islands.

One could point out that if the six mile zone from the Islands, as described in Section 2, subsection 3 of the Bill were applied in the direction of the mainland, it would encompass and include many more fishing families who depend on the same resource as those on the Islands do. In light of this we fail to understand how anyone can support what could really amount to discrimination against those who reside in equally disadvantaged areas ashore in favour of those who live a few miles away on an Island.

The introduction of non transferable island quota is referenced in point (e) of subsection 6 in section 2.

This is 'Ring Fencing' by another name.

Our Quota is a finite National resource shared as equitably as possible on a Monthly or seasonal basis to all Irish Fishing vessels which have entitlement to it. Any 'ring fenced' allocation has to come out of that National 'pot' which



means that giving more to an island sector means less for their neighbours across the water who fish in the same area with the same overheads.

While we would wish more fish and quota for everyone, we cannot support 'ring fencing' or giving extra fish quota to any one group over another, Hence, in the interest of a level 'playing field' for fishing families all along our coastline, we are not in a position to support this Bill.

Hugo Boyle,
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Waterford.