

Fish Producers Organisation CLG

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Irish South and West Submission to the Joint Oireachtas Committee JCAM meeting on 8th December 2021

Everything I write below should be read in the context of Irish Waters being the most fertile waters for Fishing anywhere in the EU with Irish Waters being the Jewel in the Crown of EU Fishing.

This statement which the Irish South and West producers wish to make follows the evidence of the loss of fishing activity in many small fishing ports all along our coastline where fishing boats and the families who operated are now a part of the local folklore.

The Irish South and West Producers Organisation predicts the complete destruction of our fishing industry resulting from the Third Decommissioning Scheme proposed by the Task Force to Minister McConalogue as it requires the wiping out of a third of the 180 vessels operating in Ireland's off-shore Demersal/Whitefish fleet, leading to the ultimate destruction of our Irish Demersal Fishing Fleet.

As stated in BIM's Annual Report for 2020 we currently employ some 16,420 people throughout the Fishing sector while exporting some 560 Million worth of Fish from the sector.

With the proposed loss of one third of our Demersal Fleet the figures cited above will change dramatically with thousands of jobs being lost all along our coastline. Family businesses that were built up over generations are to be wiped out so a country like Belgium, which is granted the right by the EU to catch 20 times our Sole in the Celtic sea is building 8 new Boats to pursue these Fish in our Waters at a cost almost the same as our Irish Government and Taxpayers are spending to get rid of 60 of our Boats – all of which could catch this Sole and much else besides if only allowed to do so by our European Masters!

Committee members - it may shock you to learn that France is also building new boats! But, then again, of course they can when they have such a large share of all the Stocks under the Common Fishery Policy. In just one such species, Monkfish, for 2022 France will be granted the right by the EU Council and Commission to catch some 21,714 Tonnes of this species, with the vast bulk of this being caught in our Celtic Sea while we Irish are granted a mere 2,775 Tonnes -in other words, we are being allowed to catch a mere 12.5% of what the French are granted with France having eight times our Quota.

Our hard-working Fishing families will sit down to yet another bleak Christmas and watch the likes of Oliver Twist while drawing the same comparisons to our Industry, for when Oliver dared to beg for more, we was told: NO! We Irish are like the other little boys who dared not ask for more but imagine if you may that the

food we are asking a little bit more of is ours to begin with but is in the possession of our European Masters who point blank refuse to allow us catch our own fish!

I could keep using the Marine Institutes November 2021 Stock Book to continue highlighting the injustice of what our Government is about to implement for a THIRD time through a Decommissioning Scheme but Deputies and Senators, just 100 years after the Treaty of 6 December 1921, see for yourselves and ask our Marine Scientists to come before you and give an account to the People of the Sovereign wealth in our Seas surrounding this small Island that are ten times the size of our land mass. The publication I refer to is called The Stock Book and consists of 471 pages detailing the truly enormous wealth surrounding our Island Nation with our Irish Fishermen being allowed catch only a miserable 15% by our European Masters in comparison to our nearest neighbour which is now entitled to catch over 75% of their Nation's Maritime wealth.

<https://bim.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/BIM-Annual-Report-2020-.pdf>

I believe the Irish South and West has shown clear leadership within our Industry ever since the outcome of the Brexit Referendum was known back in 2016 by being to the fore in highlighting the clear belief of our members that Brexit was going to hit our Industry harder than any other in Europe. We continuously warned against the Fishing Fleets of other EU Member States that depend so much on our natural resources and that would push to catch ever greater amounts of the fish in our waters as they lost those entitlements in British Waters – native Irish resources that successive Governments have taken so much for granted over the past 49 years of our EU/EEC Membership. We predicted that our European neighbours would be Wolves who would treat us like Lambs to the slaughter and sadly, how right we were!

Instructed by my Directors to write reports highlighting the plight of our Nation's Fishing communities, I have compiled these reports throughout my time as CEO, all of which have borne witness to the undeniable fact that we have been and continue to be both ignored and told to remain silent – but why? That we will be allowed catch even less fish than the miserable % we are already allowed? Now, I write, while pointing my finger NOT ONLY at other EU Member States but in the direction of those who will once again sacrifice our generally remote communities who depend so much on fishing for their very survival - but this time, from within.

The Task Force Report that is rather grandly entitled “*Navigating Change – The way forward for our Seafood Sector in the wake of the EU/UK Trade & Cooperation Agreement*” has been sent to Minister McConalogue with its recommendations on how he can use the powers of his Office to mitigate the “*profoundly damaging effects for Ireland's fishing sector and the coastal communities that depend on fishing*” to quote himself.

It is the considered view of the Directors of the Irish South and West FPO, that on Christmas Eve last, 24th of December 2020, Ireland and Irish Fishing Communities were **robbed by the EU** of one fifth or 20% of the fish our Fleet catches, primarily in our own waters in order that our fellow Member States could continue selling their Belgium Chocolates, German and French cars, their French cheese & wine and their Spanish chorizo, vegetables, their Dutch Tulips and their vegetables Tariff-free to the British people while suffering little or no loss to their own Fishing Fleets.

Following 14 long meetings of the Task Force during which not even one of the Submissions made by the Irish South and West was accepted, we believe that the long hours spent by us in preparing for these meetings and our researching and drafting of many detailed Submissions to the work of the Task Force were all for nothing and when taken with our deliberate exclusion from attending at meetings held to discuss issues directly affecting the Inshore fishermen of the Fleet, we are left feeling both frustrated and intensely disillusioned with the process.

On page 13 of the report it states:

The Terms of Reference of the Task Force were to examine the implications arising from the EU/UK TCA for the Irish Fishing industry and coastal communities particularly dependent upon it. It will, in particular, outline initiatives that could be taken to provide supports for development and restructuring so as to ensure a profitable and sustainable fishing fleet and to identify opportunities for jobs and economic activity in coastal communities dependent on fishing.

The seafood sector and dependent coastal communities are amongst the areas most negatively impacted by the TCA. The impacts are significant, immediate and long lasting. The impacts of the TCA on the Seafood Sector and Coastal Communities need to be addressed.

On Page 14, as shown by the graph below, is the financial package recommended by the Report to bring our fishing fleet back within financial viability following the loss of 20% + of our Total Allowable Catch:

Decommissioning	Million Euro
Whitefish	€63.50
Inshore	€6.00
Off Register/Inshore Inactive	€3.70
Total	€73.20

It must be noted here that the measures originally announced on RTE by our Taoiseach Michael Martin are those that are recommended by the vast majority of the Task force with **only the IS&WFPO** recorded as **not agreeing** with the terms and conditions of the Decommissioning Scheme as set out in the Report.

To inform the Task Force on the scale of restructuring required, a profitability analysis was carried out by BIM.

This analysis quantified the number of vessels required to be removed from the Irish Fleet in order to return the various fleet segments to the current level of profitability (estimated at 16%), pre-TCA. This analysis focused on the polyvalent and beam trawl fleet segments and estimated that some **60 whitefish polyvalent and beam trawl vessels of a Gross Tonnage of 8,000 GT and engine power of over 21,000 KW would need to be removed so as to return these fleet segments to profitability**. This equates to 26% of the vessels in number, and 29% of the engine power and Gross Tonnage. Removing this amount of capacity would, apparently, potentially free up approximately €38 million worth of quota.

History of a measure introduced previous Decommissioning schemes:

TAXATION

In an effort to improve the success of the 2008 decommissioning scheme some adjustments were made to the taxation treatment of decommissioning monies in the 2008 Finance Act. The three main adjustments related to the following:

Page 86 of the report shows previous measures.

1. Retirement Relief - The changes to 2008 Finance Act reduced the age limit to from 55 years to 45 years and the periods of ownership and use requirements from 10 years to 6 years for payments received under the Scheme.

The Irish South and West point out this, Brexit is an extraordinary event and the previous state aid rules and decommissioning schemes as designed by the Member state and European Commission will not be appropriate to meet the targets of the task force report as identified.

2. Capital Allowances - The changes to 2008 Finance Act provided that where a balancing charge arising as a result of payments received under the Scheme it may be spread over 5 years, commencing in the year in which the payment is paid.

*The Irish South and West propose that as this scheme is introduced to deal with the catastrophic effects of an unforeseen extraordinary event that will end a tradition for up to one third of the families in our Industry **forever**, the Irish State should not prosper one cent for this tragedy and therefore these payment should be fully Tax exempt.*

3. Costs/Receipts Associated with the Permanent Disposal or Scrapping of Vessels. - The changes to 2008 Finance Act considered that, as it is a requirement of the Scheme that decommissioned vessels are permanently disposed of or scrapped, costs incurred for that purpose may be deducted from the part of the decommissioning payment attributable to the vessel when computing the gain or loss on the vessel. Likewise, any amount received by the owner on disposal or scrapping should be added to the part of the payment attributable to the vessel.

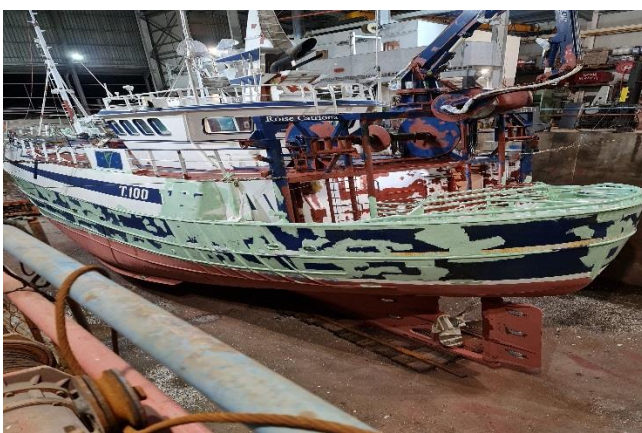
It is not clear to the members of our Organisation how the loss of a family member, this being how the families view their vessels in which the work and live, how further torture can be inflicted on the families by also having to finance its destruction from monies paid to them for the loss of their ability to continue in a way of life handed down to them over the generations, many of whom paid the ultimate price in their pursuance of earning a living on our raging seas never to return to their loved ones.

The report states that the *EU may view the tax treatments as being additional state aid over and above the funding package ceiling permitted for any scheme. How cruel a view this is to those losing their traditions and their way of Life.*

I wish to now address the impacts of the segments above on the future of our Industry and the communities that depend on fishing for their survival, referring to what is understood from the parts of the report that I have extracted to emphasis my points summarised later in our submission.

The pictures below supplied by just two of our Directors demonstrate the extensive work carried out by both on their vessels in 2019. I am showing just what is involved for a fishing family when it comes to maintaining the vessel on which they depend on to earn a living but with the greatest of all priorities keeping it to the highest standards as their lives and those of their crew depend on it.





The above pictures highlight the investment made by our members into their boats, some over 30 years old but instead of admiration for such dedication and care for their profession this will now count against them for the 40% contribution the European Union made to enable the work to be carried can be deducted from any payment of the grossly underfunded decommissioning scheme.

I ask Deputies and Senators where else would you see such a measure being applied? Again, this should be seen as the cruelty it is to affected families if implemented.

There are further proposals to devalue a vessel under the proposed scheme in relation to its age. Once again, we see how our Industry is mistreated and divided. We see in the report that **the Open Market Value** is not

used to calculate what should be paid to the family losing all, with no consideration given to the loss of their income, no understanding that each vessel, regardless of age has the same opportunity as the distribution of quota is not decided by the age of one's vessels. So how is this measure to be justified?

In highlighting my views of the Report of the Task Force, I should point out that we in the IS&WFPO put forward three main terms of reference:

1. Burden Sharing
2. Review of the CFP
3. Financial Instruments – BAR fund

Taking these in turn:

- From the outset, my requests I made to EAPO - the European Association of Producer Organizations asking we begin an internal discussion about Burden Sharing between EU Fleets in the context of the TCA that had been agreed on Christmas Eve were deemed the incorrect forum when I raised them and from this, I deduced that Burden Sharing simply wasn't going to happen. My beliefs were copper fastened when EUFA, the European Fisheries Alliance that was quickly established following the Brexit referendum by Fishing Bodies in affected EU Member States formed with the agreement they made to park each individual members separate issues specific to their own fishing fleets and unite to retain Quota share and access to UK Waters. These members of EUFA travelled to Santiago after Galicia's regional government invited representatives from coastal communities across the European Union to sign up to a so called common goal agreement:

<https://fisheriesalliance.eu/eu-decision-makers-protect-the-future-of-the-european-fishing-communities/>

However, this Association was disbanded early in 2021, proving to me that all of the assurances they had made about fair and equitable Burden Sharing were just empty promises.

You may take it that the Task Force has achieved absolutely nothing on "Burden Sharing".

- It is now almost a year since the Brexit TCA was agreed between M. Barnier and Lord Frost but yet, no hour of work has even begun between our Government, Civil Servants and Fish Producer Groups on this critical Common Fishery Policy review. Despite several promises made by Minister McConalogue and/or his Civil Servants about the forthcoming Review of the Common Fisheries Policy 2013 which expires on 31 December 2022, this in circumstances where **EU Commissioner Sinkevicius, on his recent visit to Killybegs told all assembled there that the EU Commission had not planned for Review of the Common Fisheries Policy of 2013 but a Report on its operation would be carried out instead.**

Despite the views of the Commission, **our engagement with the Commissioner during this meeting reversed his original view.** Here, it should be stated that Commissioner Sinkevicius appeared singularly unaware of just how devastating is Brexit for the Irish Fishing Industry and just how little of our own Fish we Irish are allowed to catch under the Rules of the CFP, even in our own Sovereign Waters. Assurances were given by the Commissioner that a review would take place so we are now asking this Committee to seek a date from the Minister for when this is to begin and demanding that our Industry be given a role in this critically important enterprise!

- **€400 million** plus, blood money, is earmarked to be spent across our Fishing Industry and Fishing Communities, from pier upgrades to processing grants, Aquaculture, tie up schemes all to be taken from the **One point One Billion in EU Slush Funding out of the Five Billion in total set aside by the EU** with this paltry sum designed to shut us up as compensation for the theft of future Billions of Euros from Irish Fishing Communities and from the Irish people. This figure should be understood in the context where **Poland is set to receive € 121 Billion in EU Support Payment next year in 2022!**

The Directors of the IS&WFPO are well aware, from all across the Fishing Industry and from both our Political Classes and Media of the belief held that Irish fishermen must be united as an Industry in order to win concessions from the EU.

The Irish South and West looked to bring our Industry together and Sail our fleet up Cork's River Lee and conduct a "Show and Tell" public awareness event to address the Irish people of the dire and uncertain futures we were facing following the theft of 20 % of our National fleets Total Allowable Catch as a result of Brexit. The success of this event led to the unification of our Industry and a flotilla of boats coming from every organisation bar the NIFF, NIFA and NIFO, and even boats with no affiliation to any Fisherman's Organisation, sailed up the River Liffey. It was clear to all that the Vessel Owners, Crews and their families who participated in these "Show & Tell" Events did not want money and did not want Decommissioning but did want the right to catch a fair share of the fish that spawn develop and grow in our waters so they can continue to follow the traditions of the generations who came before them all along Irelands rugged coastline.

It is evident from our willingness to compromise on Policies presented to the IS&WFPO by our Industry colleagues that we wished our Industry as a whole should unite and carry the same message together .i.e Ireland's Fishing Industry and Fishing Communities had not been afforded equal rights and equal opportunities under the TCA deal to remain a viable Industry in 2021 or in any of the years to come.

This forms the backdrop to where our predictions, although rubbished consistently, have all, unfortunately, proven true, and sadly, with our warnings ignored we ended up being the lambs to the slaughter from the huge losses but then, also, the European Commission declaring we had to pay the highest price due to our close proximity to the UK.

We were ridiculed in the media by our then Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine Michael Creed when we dared suggest we must have a plan B in place if the path our Industry Colleagues, he and his Department chose to follow would fail. At that time he publicly responded to the Irish South and West requests for a Task Force saying that to do so would look like we were picking the fish from the pockets of the members states of the EUFA Alliance while pretending to be united. Sadly and maddeningly, everything happened just as we said it would.

At the time the Brexit referendum was carried back in 2016, it was as if no-one believed that a British Tory Government would follow through on what it had been told to do by the British People in a Referendum! It was as if everyone expected that the British would do just as our own Government did when the Irish People rejected the Treaty of Lisbon in a Referendum during the Summer of 2007 because Irish people were deeply concerned by a weakening of our Neutrality; But our Government then presented the same Treaty to us 15 months later and we were foolish enough to believe that our fellow EU Member States and the EU Commission were being sincere when they told us that "protocols" to the Treaty would favour us. Does anyone now even remember what those infamous Protocols were while our Irish Army serves in sub-Saharan Africa with the French, US and other NATO Armies!

So I say to you, Members of this Joint Oireachtas Committee on Agriculture and the Marine, on Thursday the 9th December 2021, when the Task Force Report sent to Minister McConalogue which recommends that **60**

boats or 33% of the Polyvalent and Beam-trawl Vessels currently on the register, numbering 180 vessels, should be decommissioned and removed from Fishing all around our coastline FOREVER, will you ask why did we not prioritize the review of the Common Fishery Policy as a means to protecting the future for the fishing families who have invested so much to earn a living from our seas.

Why are the true financial figures of what vessels truly cost on the open market required to properly compensate Irish fishing families under the proposed decommissioning scheme put forward by the Irish South and West to the Task force not represented in the report. Instead, we have the figures presented below that are not reflective of this proven fact.

Page 81 of the report.

7.3.3 Cost of Decommissioning

The second part of the analysis examined the cost of a decommissioning scheme based on a range of payment models. These were based on an assessment of the methods to calculate the payment to decommission in the programmes of 2005/06 and 2008 and for the proposed scheme assessed in 2016. This was presented to the Task Force to help in agreeing a defined method to apply.

Based on this assessment, the following parameters were used in the analysis:

1. Target for capacity removal of of 7,900 GT and 20,900 kW
2. A basic payment the gross tonnage and KW of the vessels set a rate of €3,600 per GT based on current market values.
3. An incentive payment of up to €5,000 per GT for quota species covered under the TCA calculated by indexing total vessel quota value against the maximum total quota value of vessels within each segment. Five categories of quintiles were created to index quota value per vessel with those within 80% or higher of the maximum value eligible for 100% of the €5,000 per GT while those of below 20% eligible for 20% of the €5,000 per GT.
4. An age depreciation factor applied to the subtotal of the above payments. The results will now be described in the results section.
5. RSW vessels were excluded from the analysis.

Below is a Table drafted by BIM

Table 39: Estimated average, minimum and maximum payments at a rate of €10,600 GT

Segments	Count of Vessels	Final Segment Payment	Average Vessel Payment	Minimum Vessel Payment	Maximum Vessel Subtotal
Beamers	-2	1,588,907	794,454	525,259	882,188
Hake	-2	708,988	354,494	258,547	416,990
Gillnetters					
Prawns 12-18m	-4	1,339,941	334,985	222,905	455,169
Prawns 18-24m	-12	12,637,243	1,053,104	611,414	1,524,938

Prawns 24-40m	-8	13,752,191	1,719,024	1,024,140	2,268,842
Seiners Tier 1	-2	2,383,295	1,191,647	918,955	1,300,051
Whitefish 12-18m	-4	9,769,357	2,442,339	1,278,339	3,060,795
Whitefish 18-24m	-6	1,946,787	324,464	202,932	490,953
Whitefish 24-40m	-8	8,185,094	1,023,137	615,542	1,432,884
Whitefish/Prawn <12m	-4	6,477,967	1,619,492	923,239	2,256,614
Total	-8	591,327	73,916	57,202	139,815
Total		-60		59,381,098	

Members of the Committee, this the **THIRD Decommissioning** of the Irish Fishing Fleet and I ask you all to please study the graph below put together by a member of the Marine Institute a couple of years ago.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
U10m:	736	789	879	941	1001	1040	1069	1039	1026	1031	1029	991
10-12m:	182	179	172	176	168	169	170	164	165	166	162	153
12-15m:	77	68	68	66	66	68	69	66	63	65	64	66
15-18m:	50	41	37	35	30	24	21	20	18	18	19	18
Over 18m:	280	204	162	165	164	164	171	170	169	164	165	164

To understand this a little better, it simply means that our Irish fleet had 280 Boats of over 18 Metres fishing offshore in 2006, with these Boats competing with the Fleets of other EU Member States.

This number is now being reduced to just over 100 boats so the waters are being cleared of Irish vessels forever in preparation for Hundreds of Foreign Vessels to come to replace them and fish away happily while plundering 85% or more of the pie. This continues to leave our Coastal Fishing Communities with just under 15% of all of the Fish and this % figure is patently, clearly not enough to survive on.

Below is the Graph presented to you this time last year giving a clear picture to the tiny opportunities of our demersal fleet and although the RSW Pelagic sector was hit hardest, not one vessel from the RSW Pelagic Segment of our Fleet is proposed for decommissioning and clearly, we can see why looking at the table below.

Once again it is the Demersal sector that must be sacrificed by our Government in order to satisfy the demands of our Euro "colleagues" with 60 Fishing Vessels out of a Total of 180 such Vessels being exterminated forever.

Species	TAC Area	IRL Tonnes	Est. Value of Irl Quota	Est. Value of EU TAC	
MACKEREL	6, 7, 8.abde, 5.b, 2.a, 12, 14	78,052	€103,689,794	€488,918,395	21.2%
NEPHROPS	7	6,201	€44,056,145	€119,465,260	36.9%
HAKE	5.b, 6, 7, 12, 14	3,493	€10,221,564	€185,307,909	5.5%
HORSE MACK.	2.a, 4.a, 6, 7.a-c, 7.e-k, 8.abd, 5.b, 12,	17,726	€10,095,313	€39,306,566	25.7%
MEGRIM	7	3,101	€9,763,486	€58,977,624	16.6%
ANGLERFISH	7	2,675	€9,406,420	€124,126,061	7.6%
BLUE WHITING	5.b, 6, 7, 12, 14	38,599	€7,949,774	€67,242,004	11.8%
ALBACORE TUNA	Atlantic, north of 5°N	2,891	€6,461,858	€60,057,367	10.8%
WHITING	7.b-k	4,072	€5,962,804	€15,907,156	37.5%
HADDOCK	7, 8, 9, 10	2,413	€4,691,167	€21,111,223	22.2%
PLAICE	7.a	1,442	€3,023,668	€5,850,232	51.7%
BOARFISH	6, 7, 8	13,235	€2,878,037	€4,164,727	69.1%
ANGLERFISH	5.b, 6, 12, 14	797	€2,802,586	€28,029,373	10.0%
HADDOCK	7.a	1,366	€2,655,671	€6,135,650	43.3%
MEGRIM	5.b, 6, 12, 14	764	€2,405,451	€18,579,274	12.9%
POLLACK	7	929	€2,317,955	€30,347,989	7.6%
SKATES & RAYS	6.ab, 7.a-c, 7.e-k	1,329	€2,208,934	€16,926,847	13.0%
SAITHE	7, 8, 9, 10	1,491	€1,727,293	€3,679,332	46.9%
LING	6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14	898	€1,649,409	€22,401,109	7.4%
HADDOCK	6.b, 12, 14	824	€1,601,957	€20,358,848	7.9%
NEPHROPS	5.b, 6	215	€1,527,507	€112,957,369	1.4%
SOLE	7.hjk	148	€1,500,046	€3,334,561	45.0%
COD	7.bce-k, 8, 9, 10	461	€1,494,058	€2,608,930	57.3%
HADDOCK	5.b, 6.a	651	€1,265,624	€7,723,997	16.4%
COD	1, 2	322	€1,043,572	€69,737,830	1.5%
COD	6.a, East 5.b	284	€920,418	€4,145,120	22.2%
HERRING	1, 2 (Atlanto-Scandic)	3,035	€793,865	€8,949,877	8.9%
SOLE	7.a	77	€780,429	€4,631,897	16.8%
WHITING	7.a	415	€607,702	€1,055,791	57.6%
COD	7.a	170	€550,954	€832,913	66.1%
HERRING	7.a	2,099	€549,035	€2,109,300	26.0%
PLAICE	5.b, 6, 12, 14	261	€547,280	€1,379,732	39.7%
PLAICE	7.fg	255	€534,699	€4,200,005	12.7%
SOLE	7.fg	52	€527,043	€16,743,752	3.1%
SOLE	5.b, 6, 12, 14	46	€466,230	€577,720	80.7%
SAITHE	5.b, 6, 12, 14	401	€464,550	€8,503,241	5.5%
WHITING	5.b, 6, 12, 14	273	€399,766	€1,372,089	29.1%
SOLE	7.bc	36	€364,876	€425,689	85.7%
HERRING	6.a5, 7.bc	1,236	€323,300	€355,735	90.9%
HERRING	7.ghjk	750	€196,177	€227,304	86.3%
HORSE MACK.	4.bc, 7.d	334	€190,220	€6,386,028	3.0%
HERRING	5.b, 6.aN, 6.b	526	€137,586	€910,263	15.1%
PLAICE	7.bc	63	€132,102	€155,167	85.1%
R'NOSE GRENADE	5.b, 6, 7	166	€90,968	€1,401,784	6.5%
BLACK SCABBARD	5, 6, 7, 12	71	€85,200	€2,964,000	2.9%
POLLACK	5.b, 6, 12, 14	34	€84,834	€593,836	14.3%
GR-LAND HALIBUT	2.a, 4, 6	14	€63,000	€5,625,000	1.1%
PLAICE	7.hjk	30	€62,906	€140,489	44.8%
COD	6.b, West 5.b, 12, 14	16	€51,855	€239,827	21.6%
UNDULATE RAY	7.de	27	€44,877	€388,932	11.5%
ARGENTINES	5, 6, 7	263	€44,491	€630,825	7.1%
Other Stocks Combined		192	€149,205	€11,960,914	1.4%
			€251,563,656	€1,620,162,861	

Below is this year's TAC for our fleet in 2022 taken from the Marine Institutes 2021 Stock Book. As you can see **Oliver** has one heck of a **Twysted Task** ahead of him.

Deputies and Senators, this highlights the desperate situation our Industry finds itself in and our only way out is to seek a fair and equitable share of what is not shown below and that is what our fellow Member States will be allowed to catch in our Waters during 2022.

Table I.1 2021 Irish quota in tonnes and approximate value

Species	TAC Area	IRL Tonnes	Est. Value of Irl Quota
MACKEREL	4, 7, 8, 8dr, 5b, 2a, 12, 14	60,847	€46,076,246
NEPHROPS	7	6,102	€39,519,060
BLUE WHITING	5b, 4, 7, 12, 14	35,373	€12,154,536
HORSE MACK.	2a, 4a, 6, 7a-c, 7e-h, 8abd, 5b, 12, 14	17,561	€9,993,329
ANGLERFISH	7	2,775	€9,113,780
MEGRIM	7	2,844	€8,182,642
HAKE	5b, 4, 7, 12, 14	2,989	€7,691,191
ALBACORE TUNA	Atlantic, north of 5°N	3,115	€7,392,099
WHITING	7b-k	3,916	€5,618,861
HADDOCK	7, 8, 9, 10	2,959	€5,075,314
BOARFISH	4, 7, 8	13,234	€2,312,225
HADDOCK	7a	1,322	€2,267,511
PLAICE	7a	1,069	€2,227,017
LING	4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14	1,301	€2,122,452
SKATES & RAYS	4ab, 7a-c, 7e-k	1,210	€2,055,802
ANGLERFISH	5b, 4, 12, 14	562	€1,845,746
MEGRIM	5b, 4, 12, 14	600	€1,726,296
POLLACK	7	680	€1,596,117
SAITHE	7, 8, 9, 10	1,493	€1,534,823
NEPHROPS	5b, 4	202	€1,308,235
SOLE	7j-k	126	€1,258,130
COD	7bc-e, 8, 9, 10	422	€1,214,576
HERRING	1, 2 (Atlantic-Scandic)	3,370	€1,160,757
HADDOCK	5b, 4a	648	€1,111,458
SOLE	7a	104	€1,038,457
HADDOCK	4b, 12, 14	570	€977,671
COD	1, 2	290	€834,661
COD	4a, East 5b	243	€699,388
PLAICE	5b, 4, 12, 14	248	€516,651
PLAICE	7j-g	240	€499,985
SOLE	5b, 4, 12, 14	46	€459,317
WHITING	5b, 4, 12, 14	299	€429,019
HERRING	4d-f, 7bc	1,236	€425,726
SOLE	7j-g	42	€419,377
WHITING	7a	280	€401,757
SAITHE	5b, 4, 12, 14	369	€379,337
COD	7a	104	€299,327
SOLE	7bc	28	€279,585
HERRING	7a	808	€278,306
HERRING	7ghk	750	€258,329
TUSK	5, 4, 7	238	€202,929
HORSE MACK.	4bc, 7d	330	€187,791
HERRING	5b, 4ab, 4b	478	€164,642
GR-LAND HALIBUT	2a, 4, 6	29	€130,500
R'NOSE GRENADIER	5b, 4, 7	150	€82,200
BLACK SCABBARD	5, 4, 7, 12	55	€66,000
POLLACK	5b, 4, 12, 14	26	€61,028
PLAICE	7j-k	28	€58,332
COD	4b, West 5b, 12, 14	16	€46,050
UNDULATE RAY	7de	25	€42,475
PLAICE	7bc	15	€31,249
ARGENTINES	5, 4, 7	262	€27,376
Other Stocks Combined		103	€80,710
Totals		172,132	€184,736,380

The Task force Report also contains a reference to where we in the Irish South and West could not agree with the proposed terms and conditions of this Decommissioning Scheme, nor with the amount of money proposed to be paid per Gross Tonnage of a vessel as proposed to be offered to Irish fishing families. Leaving an average of just over One Million Euro to be paid for each Boat and its License, is scandalous and should result in resignations, not pats on the back.

2. A permanent cessation scheme targeted at whitefish polyvalent and beam trawl vessels with the objective of removing 60 vessels of 8,000 GT and 21,000 KW should be put in place, funded under the BAR. The cost of this scheme is estimated at €63.5 million, ref: page 16 of the report

This is just **€63.5 million** being paid out to those families being forcibly removed from our Fishing Industry deducted from the **€400 million** funding given to our Government out of **the One point One Billion Euro** BAR Fund paid to Ireland by the EU.

I say to you Senators and Deputies, save this submission and show it to your children and grandchildren for this will be recognised in our history as one of the darkest periods for our Fishermen for their families and their crews but most of all, for our country and the people in our rural Coastal Communities.

The Irish South and West in ending its submission wishes to draw Members attention to Rules of previous Decommissioning schemes as they are now to be applied - in Summary:

1. New Entrants now with no choice but to leave the Industry may not have the vessels under their ownership long enough to be eligible to qualify.
2. The terms and conditions of the proposed decommissioning scheme do not reflect the extraordinary event that has led us here and to implement them would add more hurt and injury to an already mistreated coastal community.
3. The Figures of the scheme simply do not add up, 7,900 GT's at a maximum of €12,000 per GT leaves a shortfall of €31,800,000.
4. The Cost of entering the Industry for the vessels Identified in the BIM report in the years leading up to and following Brexit ranges from €14,000 - €25,000 per GT.
5. The terms of the decommissioning scheme will financially cripple those with no option but to leave the Industry, if they have as our pictures show, invested heavily in their vessels in the past five years but will see the grants they received deducted from the already devalued financial figure available to them.
6. When will we see a real effort to seek a fair share of the natural resource that breeds, spawns, feeds grows and swim in our waters.
7. At the very least, allocate sufficient funds that will provide some comfort to those with no choice but leave their Industry, these families who learned their trade from the generations that fished before them. Surely, Deputies and Senators, if we expect to be treated fairly we must do so in how as elected representatives demonstrate what is fair by doing right for these hardworking families.
8. One question has never been asked by our Department or Government:

If we were granted **equal rights and equal opportunities** to the **Natural resource** in abundance around **our Island Nation** just how many, if any, would take decommissioning?