



Tel: 027-70670 Fax: 027-70771 Int. Prefix + 353 E-Mail: southwest@eircom.net Website: www.irishsouthandwest.ie

Celtic Sea Herring Management Advisory Committee
C/O Irish South & West Fish Producers Organisation Ltd.

Subject: MSC Certification for Celtic Sea Herring

July 6th 2010

Dear Vessel Owner,

On behalf of all stakeholders involved in the Celtic Sea Herring Fishery, the Celtic Sea Herring Management Advisory Committee (CSHMAC) has decided to pursue MSC Certification as part of a structured approach towards improving the management and added value return from this important resource. Concurrently, continental markets are increasingly requiring MSC Certification for Herring. Ireland must now conform to such market requirements in an effort to maintain and develop pelagic market share.

The CSHMAC will coordinate an MSC Certification application for Celtic Sea Herring and will formally begin this process over the coming months with a view to securing Certification during 2011.

Funding for this process will be required from Participating Vessels as was the case for MSC Certification for Mackerel. Funding will be required to be paid in advance to the CSHMAC, c/o IS&WFPO Ltd, which in this instance is the management body acting on behalf of participant stakeholders.

Subject to expected numbers of vessels, vessel participation costs have been calculated as follows for MSC Certification purposes;

Vessels Under 50 ft (Reg. Length) - €750

Vessels Under 65 ft (Reg. Length) - €1000

Vessels Over 65 ft (Reg. Length) - €1500

Note: In the event of less than expected numbers of vessels participating, additional future costs may be required.

It is envisaged that, through the management body of CSHMAC, vessels will be rebated at 75% of costs during the process subject to successful implementation of a vessel Seafood Environmental Management System and completion of the MSC Certification Process.

Grant Aid will be sought by CSHMAC from BIM under the present seafood Environmental Management & Certification Grant Aid Scheme (See Attached) for both MSC Certification and BIM Responsible Fisheries Certification Scheme.

Some additional costs will be payable by vessels wishing to pursue the BIM Responsible Fisheries Certification. Vessel owners will be notified of these costs in due course once they have ascertained.

Vessel Owners wishing to participate in the Celtic Sea Herring MSC Certification Process must :

- **Sign the attached Participation & Authorisation Agreement in Part A of the Attached Application Form**
- **Confirm their interest in availing of the Vessel Upgrade Grant Aid Option. This grant aid option is capped by vessel LOA and so vessels must indicate the level of grant aid being sought for upgrade purposes over a 3-year period. Please note (due to European funding regulations) this is available to vessels of 5 years of age and older only.**

- **Vessels (or Organisations acting on their behalf) must have responded to CSHMAC, c/o IS&WFPO with confirmation of participation and signed authorisations by close of business on Wednesday 21st July 2010.**

Completed Authorisation Agreement Forms, together with notification of the level of vessel upgrade grant aid sought (over 3 years for each participating vessel) can be returned by post to;

Mr. Gavin Power

Chairman

Celtic Sea Herring Management Advisory Committee

C/o Irish South & West Fish Producers Organisation Ltd.

The Pier

Castletownbere

Co. Cork

On or before Wednesday 21st July 2010

Yours Sincerely,

Gavin Power

Chairman

Celtic Sea Herring Management Advisory Committee

C/o IS&WFPO Ltd.