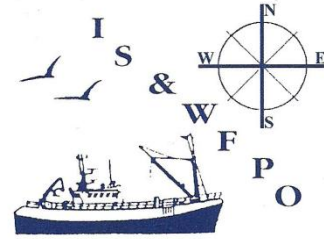


*Irish South and West
Fish Producers' Organisation Ltd.*



The Pier, Castletownbere, Co. Cork
Tel: 027-70670 Fax: 027-70771 Int. Prefix + 353
e-mail: info@irishsouthandwest.ie
Website: www.irishsouthandwest.ie

Press Release

“Irish South and West Fish Producers Organisation Ltd. calls on Minister of State Sean Connick, TD, to use Irelands increase in Mackerel quota to make the polyvalent fishery viable”

Eibhlín O’Sullivan, CEO of the *Irish South and West Fish Producers Organisation Ltd.*, confirmed the Organisation has made a formal request to Minister of State, Sean Connick, to have the additional 10% increase in Mackerel quota which Ireland will receive in 2011 allocated in it’s entirety to the Polyvalent Mackerel fishery. **“ Under the present system the polyvalent fishery is allocated just 13% of the national quota which meant in 2010 8,143 tonnes was divided between in excess of 30 vessels where in contrast 54,498 tonnes was allocated between the 23 vessels in the RSW segment”** Ms. O’Sullivan explained **“this is clearly an inequitable division”**.

The *Irish South and West Fish Producers Organisation Ltd.* believes that this increase in quota provides the Minister with an ideal opportunity to rectify this inequity without penalising the RSW vessels who will receive the same quota which they received in 2010. A number of polyvalent vessels are dedicated solely to Pelagic fishing and as a result of the unviable quotas they received in 2010 they spent the majority of the year tied up and are now struggling to survive financially.

“By allocating this additional 6,059 tonnes to the polyvalent fishery (bring the polyvalent quota to a more viable 14,199 tonnes) not only will this have the benefit of allowing these polyvalent vessels a chance of survival, it will also help to maintain “on shore” jobs in processing, transport and distribution as the polyvalent fishery is carried out in coastal community areas where there are little other sources of employment.” Ms. O’Sullivan continued **“we believe this is a win/win situation both for the Minister and the fishermen themselves and we urge the Minister to take this proactive step to help industry survival and job creation”**.

Note: Irelands Mackerel quota in 2010 was 62,641 and was worth approximately €60m to the Irish economy. In 2011 Ireland’s quota has been increased by 10% to 68,700 and should be worth an estimated €75m to the Irish economy.

ENDS

12th January, 2011.