

National Fishermen's Development Group (NFDG)

Project Outline:

It is proposed the NFDG will continue to meet regularly during 2022. An independent chair/facilitator will assist the Group and secretarial support will be provided by BIM. It will also incorporate representation from the Women in Seafood group. Experts from other agencies and service providers (BIM, MSO, SFPA, Financial services, Pensions experts) to the catching sector will continue to participate where relevant in 2022.

During 2022, the NFDG will continue to facilitate constructive discussion both amongst the group as well as with Government agencies and service providers dialogue on technical, operational and practical pertaining to the catching sector. This will be provided through direct feedback to the Producer Organisations and the NIFF/RIFF on issues impacting on the day-to-day operation of the catching sector. The NFDG will input into BIM's training strategy and participate in steering groups as and when required to help alleviate the crewing issues that currently exist in the catching sector.

The NFDG will also be involved in projects identified as being important to the catching sector. This will be achieved through the development of user-friendly guides and information notes for fishermen. This will include the continued development of the Fishermen's Handbook and progression of the Register of Fishermen.

Project Objectives:

The main objective of the forum is to provide a mechanism to allow dialogue between practising fishermen on a range of "grassroots" issues relating to fishing operations. Specifically, the NFDG aims to provide a platform to:

- Facilitate discussion between fishermen on technical, practical and business issues that impact on the day-to-day running of fishing vessels.
- Facilitate the provision of expert advice on relevant issues including on new and existing rules and regulations.
- Allow fishermen to share information and experiences with new technology and innovations that can improve fishing.
- Promote a positive image of the Irish fishing industry.

Expected Benefits:

- Provision of a platform for positive dialogue between fishermen which will enhance the profile of the Irish catching sector through positive communication.
- Provide direct feedback to the Producer Organisations and the NIFF/RIFF on issues impacting on the day-to-day operation of the catching sector.
- Input into national training strategy to help alleviate the crewing issues that currently exist in the catching sector.
- Develop user friendly guides and information notes for the catching sector.

Projected Cost: €40,000