

## **Meeting with Marine Institute Fisheries Liaison Team Lead**

**14<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

### **Sampling at sea programs**

- Approaches to build on successful initiatives in Tuna and Nephrops fisheries in whitefish.
- Feedback from MI shows sampling at sea efforts have greatly improved in the last 12 months with increased recordings to species level. ETP species becoming more important with recorded instances of marine birds. This showcases higher quality and resolution of data being produced.

### **Whitefish FIP issues**

- Update on status of key commercial whitefish stocks Celtic Sea – any signs of improvement? Some skippers felt that 2023 was better than previous 2 to 3 years.
- Whiting FIP workplan has an action related to Harvest Strategy/Harvest Control Rule to “Engage with the Marine Institute to investigate conducting a management strategy evaluation for the Whiting fishery.” This is relevant for all whitefish FIPs. Discussion on steps to set up a meeting with MI Whitefish scientists to discuss some whitefish FIPs issues in more detail.
- Recruitment is a driver to understanding whitefish stock health and future progression.
- MI is working on data for Pollock with scientists looking at historic logbook data for stock assessments.

### **Haddock/Coley/Whiting FIPs**

- Produce a robust ‘total catch’ profile for the fishery to confirm main in-scope species and their status
- Assess availability of data on ETP species bycatch especially in gillnets
  - Trial of protocol specifically for gillnets in progress at MI
- Assess availability of data on elasmobranch bycatch by species
  - ICES working group on elasmobranch bycatch released in 2023 very useful resource
- Discussions on upcoming whitefish benchmarking – 6a Cod and Monk in Area 6 should be due for benchmarking this year.