**Irish Brown Crab FIP Meeting Minutes 22.09.23**

FIP Coordinators welcomed all to the meeting and introduced the agenda.

**Crab FIP Update- FIP Coordinators**

* Meeting was given a brief update on the status of the Crab FIP including the current rating on Fishery Progress.
* Coordinators outlined the ongoing work within the Crab FIP, the completion of the new pre-assessment and the subsequent work on the updated workplan aimed at improving progress within the FIP and setting the FIP up for a strong plan going forward.

**New Pre-assessment report and revised workplan presented by Rod Cappell and Giuseppe Scarcella, Poseidon**

* Coordinators introduced Rod and Giuseppe to present the pre-assessment.
* RC summarised the pre-assessment process including:
* The pre-assessment being conducted against Version 3 of the MSC Standard
* P1 summary- Giuseppe Scarcella
* GS noted that for the pre-assessment the crab fishery was treated as a single Unit of Assessment but that stock areas were treated separately under the scoring elements.
* For Irish Brown Crab fishery there was 4 stocks meaning 4 different scoring elements (Malin Shelf, South-West, Celtic Sea, Irish Sea)
* Issues identified under lack of HCRs
* GS noted that development of HCRs may lead to a 60-79 score which is a pass with conditions.
* P2 summary- Rod Cappell
* RC advised on data gaps and the increase in evidence-based requirements under P2.
* Develop a strategy and gather information on ghost gear and ghost gear mitigation to be considered by the FIP.
	+ - Information on catch composition is needed to determine level of live returns, whether or not ETP species present in bycatch, survivability and sensitivity.
* Scientific representative confirmed MI has developed catch profiles from observer data going back 10 years. Needs to be reviewed for completeness.
* Meeting agreed that this type of data would be useful under the workplan actions for P2.
* P3 summary- Rod Cappell
* Governance and policy performance indicators score well as Ireland is signed up to the EU Common Fisheries Policy which is seen as robust.
* Evidence needed of a fishery specific response to the state of the fishery

**Revised Workplan**

* RC presented the draft action plan to open discussions with the meeting.
* Getting up to date information on catch and bait as part of the workplan will plug the gap.
* RC advised in the Irish Brown Crab fishery a ghost gear survey to understand the scale within the fishery is most appropriate.
* Discussions took place on regional variability of bait use, catch composition, effort, management measures, and pot limits.
* The coordinators confirmed all this information is taken into account and will be used at a strategic level when discussing next steps of FIPs at the Strategy Steering Group.

Action:

* RC to check MSC defined level of % of fishery coverage.
* Coordinators to follow up with DAFM on thoughts on pre-assessment.

**Joint AC Focus Group Update (Norah Parke)**

* NP gave a summary of the advice from the Joint ACs submitted to the European Commission.
* This document will be circulated after the meeting.
* NP also advised that financial analysis of the stock is needed. The meeting agreed with this and noted that economic viability needs to be taken into management considerations.

**Alternative Bait Project Update- Mike Fitzpatrick**

* MF gave a brief summary of the latest meeting of the alternative bait project.
* Meeting agreed that the project should be considered going forward as a natural next step is larger scale sea trials.

Action:

* FIP to support further funding for the project further including a letter to BIM.

**Social Requirements**

* Coordinators highlighted the social requirements under Fishery Progress reporting.

**UK Crab FIP Update**

* FMPs are now being developed for England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
* Coordinators advised they had spoken to Adam Holland of Sea Source and was advised that they are actively involved with government to develop FIPs in Northern Ireland.

Action:

* + NP to follow up if crab strategy in place under NI FMP and what progress is being made at an EU level.