**Summary of Irish Brown Crab FIP meeting.**

**Virtual meeting held on Microsoft Teams on June 2nd 2021**

* Following a tender process a panel of vessels has been set up to provide shellfish fishery data to the Marine Institute.
* There remains scope to increase the number of vessels providing data and the FIP and Marine Institute will explore how this may be achieved.
* The Marine Institute have developed a new assessment model for the crab fishery which should improve understanding of the stock status and dynamics.
* There is a possible recruitment problem in the fishery evident for the first time although the specific cause in not fully understood.
* A recent survey of crab fishers in the North West of the country highlighted a number of problems including increased effort and increased use of crab as bait in the whelk fishery.
* The FIP is to liaise with the NIFF (National Inshore Fisheries Forum) and develop a number of management proposals aimed at addressing current issues for discussion in the FIP and NIFF.
* An update on the replacement bait in the whelk fishery project was provided and a report is now available on Phase 1. A sub-committee of the FIP will be established and a tender for Phase 2 of the project will be issued within the next 2 months.