**Common Fisheries Policy Review**

**Proposal for reform of Common Fisheries Policy**

The Common Fisheries Policy agreed in 1983 has proved to be far from “common” to the participating states. It has severely damaged the Irish fishing industry.

It is acknowledged that the policy decided at that time did not take account of Ireland being a peripheral nation, an island nation denied the right over centuries to develop her natural fishing resources. One can assume that our negotiating representatives believed that they had achieved an excellent deal for Ireland, on a promise of financial assistance to develop infrastructural needs, etc.

We must take cognisance of the mistakes of the past!

It is a fact that our seas, our waters, have contributed vast sums of money to fishing nations of the E.U. over 35 years and more. Verification of these facts can be had from the library of B.I.M., the Revenue Commissioners and the Statistics Office, as supplied to us. It is also a fact that during the Lisbon Treaty debate, our fishing industry was scarcely mentioned.

On behalf of Comhar Iascaire Eireann Teo., please accept the following proposal for inclusion and discussion on your web-site.

We propose: *that fishing operations cease for all nations of the E.U. in Irish waters for the period of three months – January, February, March. (*These months are the spawning months and are vitally important to conservation). *Fishermen to work and cooperate with the Marine Institute in conserving stocks.*

This action may appear harsh but it is a vital necessity if the E.U. is sincere and honest in their efforts to preserve and protect our fishing industry into the future. Closure of fishing effort must continue year on year to monitor progress.

**What benefits will accrue?**

1. End of the insulting and nonsensical discard regime.
2. End of designated landing ports.
3. End of the so-called “Protection Association” policing the industry.
4. Establishment of a proper protection organisation, which will include fishing representatives, in monitoring imports, buying and selling prices. Organisation to have powers of consultation with fish importers, to assess amounts and prices at appropriate times.
5. The E.U. to fund the fishing industry during period of the tie-up. Funding to be realistic to the needs of families. Moratorium on payments of boats. Funding to include shore workers affected by decisive action.
6. B.I.M. role to include all aspects of marine operations in fishing industry and related industry.
7. Politicians and ex-politicians to refrain from making ignorant statements such as Mr. Pat Cox, ex-President of the E.U. made. Mr. Cox wondered if fish swim with a notice saying. “I’m Irish”. We must provide Mr. Cox with a suitable notice.
8. Exclusive area of fishing grounds to be retained for inshore fisheries and particular species and for Irish fleet.
9. Proper monitoring of E.U. vessels operating in our waters.

Yours sincerely,

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