

Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority

223rd Board Meeting of the Authority
Special Meeting by Video Conferencing
On Fishing and Seafood Development Report (FSDP)
held on
Tuesday 18th May 2021 at 1.30pm

Present via Zoom:	Robert McConnell (RMcC) – Chairperson Kevin Quigley (KQ) – Chief Executive Davey Hill (DH) – Board Member David Knott (DK) – Board Member & Chair of Audit Committee Harry Wick (HW) – Board Member Kate Burns (KB) – Board Member Lynn Gilmore(LG) – Board Member
In attendance:	Belinda McCaughey (BMcC) - Accounts Administrator Rod Cappell (RC) – For Agenda Item 4 only

	Action
1. APOLOGIES Alan McKeown (AMcK) – Board Member	
2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST Conflict of Interest Register is up to date. HW confirmed he attends the meetings of the Ardglass Development Committee but is not a member of that committee.	
3. INTRODUCTION KQ emphasised that he did not write the report but noted that the report accurately reflects the views of the current Board who are keen to see investment in all three harbours KQ liaised with RC and is pleased to see that the final report reflects NIFHA’s view. The Ardglass Development Committee wanted detail of the Rock/Clay mix to enable better estimates of the costs. A Report has been produced but it is not easy to understand. KQ took questions on the FSDP report. KB noted that some of the levers required to make the outcome work are attached to the Blue Economy. Funding may be outside of our Remit.	

	Action
<p>DH noted his dissatisfaction with the numbers in the report. The Kilkeel project could not add anything outside of the fishing. No reference could be made to Offshore Energy or Tourism. This will need to be included going forward.</p> <p>RMcC confirmed that KQ knows our limitations on funding and this report will be taken into account in our Strategic Planning in the Autumn.</p> <p>HW stated that since the release of the report NIFF have met with DAERA where the plan is to commission a 2nd study to move this project forward. Funding is beyond our funding. It was also agreed at that meeting that projects for each of the ports would go forward on an equal footing.</p>	
<p>4. FISHING & SEAFOOD DEVELOPMENT REPORT (FSDP) – PRESENTATION BY ROD CAPPELL</p> <p>RMcC welcomed RC to the meeting at 13:49.</p> <p>RC detailed the contents of the FSDP report, and the separate stages covered so far.</p> <p>The next stage is Environmental and Technical Studies. This is now with the minister to make the decision to progress.</p> <p>A copy of the full report can be found on the DAERA Website.</p> <p>RMcC thanked RC and praised the report for removing the competition between the individual ports.</p> <p>RMcC asked for questions</p> <p>HW also thanked RC and confirmed that the report matches what the NI Fishing Industry wants. Funding may not be an issue. The requirement for deepening the harbour in Ardglass was not highlighted in the report. RC confirmed that it was his understanding that the harbour needs to be deepened but possibly not to a 9m depth – 4-5m may be more appropriate.</p> <p>HW confirmed that an additional 3.5m onto the current depth may be workable. Detailed designs would show this and what is realistic and workable for the fleet.</p> <p>With Britain leaving the EU some the of ROI Herring Quota has been given to the UK. DK queried future changes to the Pelagic Vessels and will this allow for future changes. Has PFI advanced with the Voyager / Pelagic Vessels?</p> <p>RC confirmed that this has not happened but there will need to be some sort of firm commitment which could be centred around financials. The Voyager is c. 84m long.</p> <p>KB queried the lack of land available in Kilkeel and noted that the current level of funding of £4M p.a. will not be enough to let the fishing industry meet its potential.</p> <p>RC noted this is a valid point and it has been difficult to get a multi-sector plan moving forward. Needs to be more than just the fishing side.</p>	

