Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority 223 <sup>rd</sup> Board Meeting of the Authority Special Meeting by Video Conferencing On Fishing and Seafood Development Report (FSDP) held on Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> 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				
		rest Register is up to date. HW confirmed he attends the meetings Development Committee but is not a member of that committee.			
3.	INTRODUCTI	ON			
	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			
	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.				
	RMcC confirmed that KQ knows our limitations on funding and this report will be taken into account in our Strategic Planning in the Autumn.				
	HW stated that since the release of the report NIFF have met with DAERA where the plan is to commission a 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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.				
•	FISHING & SEAFOOD DEVELOPMENT REPORT (FSDP) – PRESENTATION BY ROD CAPPELL				
	RMcC welcomed RC to the meeting at 13:49.				
	RC detailed the contents of the FSDP report, and the separate stages covered so far.				
	The next stage is Environmental and Technical Studies. This is now with the minister to make the decision to progress.				
	A copy of the full report can be found on the DAERA Website.				
	RMcC thanked RC and praised the report for removing the competition between the individual ports.				
	RMcC asked for questions				
	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.				
	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.				
	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?				
	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.				
	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.				
	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.				

		Action	
	LG commented this is a very clear report and asked if RC could share the slides after the meeting. Seafish are looking at doing a study of small fishing ports.		
	RC – On the subject of costs DAERA are nervous. This report only contains the do minimum figures. NIFHA is reliant on Capital Funding.		
	DK asked if there was any land available and has any thought been given to this?		
	KQ commented there has been no serious discussion but is aware that there is a significant amount of land with outline planning permission, privately owned available.		
	RMcC thanked RC for his time, report and comprehensive answers to questions asked.		
5.	DISCUSSION OF REPORT		
	KQ emphasised the next step is to issue a firm endorsement of the Report. Writing to Head of Fisheries, Permanent Secretary and to the PO's.		
	DK noted it is important that we have a common message to pass on if any of the Board are questioned.		
	KQ will prepare a bullet point summary.		
	<ul> <li>HW also noted we have 2 directions to communicate to:</li> <li>DAERA – How pleased we are that this report matches NIFHA's opinion. Also the need to meet with DAERA to discuss.</li> <li>Stakeholders – Write to all stakeholders.</li> </ul>		
	After a full discussion it was decided to:		
	<ul> <li>Letter to DAERA</li> <li>Letter to Stakeholders</li> <li>Article in the Fishing News</li> <li>Arrange a meeting with the Minister</li> <li>Prepare a summary of Actions</li> </ul>		
	KQ will work on these and send out within the next 7 days.	KQ	
6.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING		
	Wednesday 30th June 2021		