
From: webmaster@ec.europa.eu
Sent: vendredi 1 janvier 2010 19:46
To: MARE FISH INFO
Subject: Feedback to Fisheries (en)

The date is 01/01/2010 and the time is 19:45
The sender is using:
- Browser name:
- Browser version:

Name:Fr John Joe Duffy

E-mail:frjohnjoe@gmail.com

Mail address:Arranmore Island,

Co. Donegal,

Ireland.

Comments:I have been attempting to send this email to "mare-cfp-consultation@ec.europa.eu" <mare-cfp-consultation@ec.europa.eu> since last night.

Many thanks,

Fr John Joe Duffy.

postmaster@ec.europa.eu to me

show details 11:00 PM (19 hours ago)

This is an automatically generated Delivery Status Notification.

Delivery to the following recipients failed.

- Show quoted text -

mare-cfp-consultation@ec.europa.eu

Final-Recipient: rfc822;mare-cfp-consultation@ec.europa.eu

Action: failed

Status: 5.1.1

----- Forwarded message -----

From: JOHN JOE DUFFY <frjohnjoe@gmail.com>
To: "mare-cfp-consultation@ec.europa.eu" <mare-cfp-consultation@ec.europa.eu>
Date: Thu, 31 Dec 2009 23:00:34 +0000
Subject: Fwd: Contribution to the consultation - Citizen

----- Forwarded message -----

From: JOHN JOE DUFFY <frjohnjoe@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Dec 31, 2009 at 10:57 PM
Subject: Contribution to the consultation - Citizen
To: "mare-cfp-consultation@ec.europa.eu" <mare-cfp-consultation@ec.europa.eu>

Tá oileán Árann Mhóir suite trí mhíle amach ó chósta Thír Chonaill. Tá 522 duine ina gcónaí ar an oileán. Arranmore Island is situated 5 km off the Donegal coast. The population of the island is 522 people(2006 census). The island 18 square km in size. Arranmore Island is a place where Gaelic language, culture and traditions exist since the early medieval Ireland. It is a place of fishing legends, Gaelic legends, peace, beauty and tranquillity, a place set apart. In this place of rich heritage, beauty and culture, one can savour the beautiful and untamed landscape, Gaelic culture, quiet country roads with abundant wildlife, and fishing traditions that have existed here since time immemorial.

The West of the island gives testament to the Atlantic's fury with many marine caves and stacks carved from solid rock resulting in a spectacular cliff coastline. The island is mountainous (225 meters) with poor land dotted with rocks and seven small lakes and three small harbours characteristic of the Rosses area of Donegal.

Excellent views of the mainland from Glen Head to Tory Island are to be found while walking the islands 11 square kms. The lighthouse,

whose predecessor has warned seafarers since 1778, is situated on Rinrawros Point at the Northwest of the island providing a focal point for exploration of the surrounding area. It was from this point that eye witness accounts of the 1798 naval battle between England and the forces of Napoleon were given in great detail. Today another great battle continues, the attempt to survive the impositions, and restrictions placed on the island fishing community by the EU and the over zealous implementation of rules by the Irish government on this community. One could argue that the fishing community of Arranmore was better and more fairly treated under the Congested Districts Board than it has been by the EU and successive native governments since the early 1990's.

The value of 1,451 Tonnes of Live Weight Sea Fish Landings at Burtonport 1994 was 1,767 (Euro Thousand).

The value of 1,549 Tonnes of Live Weight Sea Fish Landings at Burtonport 1995 was 1,754 (Euro Thousand).

The value of 2,331 Tonnes of Live Weight Sea Fish Landings at Burtonport 1996 was 1,742 (Euro Thousand).

The value of 1,272 Tonnes of Live Weight Sea Fish Landings at Burtonport 1997 was 1,519 (Euro Thousand).

The value of 1,000 Tonnes of Live Weight Sea Fish Landings at Burtonport 1998 was 1,944 (Euro Thousand).

The value of 1,050 Tonnes of Live Weight Sea Fish Landings at Burtonport 1999 was 1,892 (Euro Thousand).

The value of 1,033 Tonnes of Live Weight Sea Fish Landings at Burtonport 2000 was 2,202 (Euro Thousand).

The value of 711 Tonnes of Live Weight Sea Fish Landings at Burtonport 2001 was 2,037 (Euro Thousand).

The value of 545 Tonnes of Live Weight Sea Fish Landings at Burtonport 2002 was 1,215 (Euro Thousand).

The value of 414 Tonnes of Live Weight Sea Fish Landings at Burtonport 2003 was 903 (Euro Thousand).

The value of 300 Tonnes of Live Weight Sea Fish Landings at Burtonport 2004 was 823 (Euro Thousand). Source CSO Ireland.

The above shows a dramatic decrease in fish landings at Burtonport up to 2004. I do not have any further data. All Arranmore island fish catches are landed at Burtonport. Since the Summer of this year 2009, Burtonport Fishermen's Cooperative Society announced it's closure. Burtonport was a thriving port in the 60's, 70's, 80's and early 90's. It was one of the biggest fish landing ports in Ireland. " We are not talking about a small harbour. Burtonport has a turnover of £7 million." (Mr. P. Gallagher: Dáil Éireann - Volume 358 - 22 May, 1985 Adjournment Debate. - Burtonport (Donegal) Harbour). Today there are no Irish boats over 10 metres fishing out of Burtonport.

I am the Roman Catholic Priest on Arranmore Island, Co. Donegal. the population of the island in 1988 was 768 (survey carried out by local Priest), in 2002; 543 persons and in 2006; 522 persons (CSO census), and my estimate is 503 persons at present. I believe that the large decrease is due to the decline in the fishing industry, due to the ban on salmon fishing and the severe blanket bans and restrictions placed on island fishing boats in Area Via. Many of our young fishermen are fishing abroad on Irish and foreign vessels for most of the year. If I lose one children from either school on the island, I will also lose two teachers. I have very serious concerns for the future existence of this island and it's people. I am 35 years of age and I am from Burtonport. I remember this island in the 1980's having up to 150 people involved in fishing. Today there are very very many less, just more than a few handfuls. However we have more who desire to fish and some more who would return home to fish.

I believe that it is necessary for the EU commission to make exemptions for the island fishing communities and the small inshore fishing sector.

There is an immediate need to relax fishing restrictions on small island fishing vessels. As it stands there are severe restrictions on small vessels.

At the moment we are unable to fish for our own tables on Arranmore Island. We are required to buy imported fish in the shops for our tables. This is a strange position for an island surrounded by the richest fishing grounds in Europe.

Island fishermen with their small boats must be allowed to fish to provide for their own needs and to provide an income for themselves and their families. Regulations and rules should not be applied to island fishing communities in a blanket manner. Island fishermen's fishing efforts have a negligible impact on stocks. Secondly those who live on islands do not have the same employment opportunities as those on the mainland. Thirdly we are an island and it is not as easy to travel to jobs, the sea is our natural hinterland.

I also believe that island fishermen should be treated in a more positive manner and be allowed better access to fishing. There are very definite practices in relation to policy for other facets of island life. Teachers, doctors, nurses, and police officers have special allowances and pay conditions for working on an island. Elections on islands are held several days before those on the mainland because of transport difficulties that poor weather conditions may present to transport of ballot boxes from islands. There are special house grants for islands. There are special transport subsidies for island ferries. My basic point is that so many government departments recognise the hardships and difficulties of island lives. My hope is that the EU commission should now realise the same and legislate positively not only for island fishermen and their families, but for island communities as a whole. Island fishing is absolutely necessary for the continuance of families to remain on the islands and failure to protect fishing as a way of life will result in the further haemorrhage of young island fishermen and their families making it unsustainable for old people to remain on our islands. The alternative will be to continue to transport our elderly population to state run nursing homes and leave the islands as a playground holiday reserve for the rich and privilege and the loss of a Gaelic culture

that has existed on Arranmore, Tory, Inishboffin since time immemorial.

We need the CFP to help and enable island and inshore fishing communities to remain viable. I call for unrestricted access for island vessels from Donegal in Area Vla. I ask that islanders be allowed to fish herring, mackerel, spur dog, salmon and other species. I believe that a localised management structure is necessary like that which now exists in parts of Sweden. I now ask the Commission to put in place a strategy for island and inshore fishing . To ensure that this industry which has a negligible impact on fishing stocks be allowed to continue. Island and inshore fishing is absolutely essential for the survival of island and rural communities. Failure to alleviate the restrictions and hardships on island and inshore fishing will result in further loss of population and the total collapse of inshore and island fishing. A country that has 20% of EU waters must be allowed to give a fair chance of survival to it's islands and inshore fishing communities, while we can stand on our shores and watch trawlers from other nations catch our fish stocks within 10 km of our shorelines.

Islands are islands and islands must be allowed to engage in maritime activity and in the words of a great friend to islands the late Charles J. Haughey, speaking in Dingle boatyard on the 4th October, 1986, " We must secure complete acceptance of the fact that Ireland as an island must be a maritime nation and that the potential of our seas and our marine resources must be developed as an essential element of national economic progress. It is unforgivable that we have for so long neglected this key resource and left Ireland's marine wealth to be exploited and developed by any other nation that felt like doing so...A fisherman's life is a challenging and demanding one, calling for courage and resourcefulness..."

All I ask of the Commission is to give our island fishermen and those young people who want to fish from their islands harbours fair play

and justice.

Wishing you a Happy New Year,

Thank you,

Fr. John Joe Duffy, C.C.

Arranmore Island,

Co. Donegal.

087 3143532

Email; frjohnjoe@gmail.com