

Holly Cairns, Social Democrats

Emergency Measures in the Public Interest (Covid-19) Bill 2020 – Fisheries Task Force Submission

Overview

This submission relates to the immediate establishment of a Fisheries Task Force to support the sector and communities impacted by the unprecedented nature of the Covid19. Those in the fishing sector already experience disproportionate degrees of precarity and poverty which has been exacerbated by the emergency.

Rationale

- The closure of Restaurants across Europe and the withdrawal of some large Supermarket chains of fish products from their shelves have been extremely damaging for the Irish fishing sector

Action

That the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine immediately establishes a Fisheries Task Force to deliver recommended policy changes and support structures no later than twenty-eight (28) days from the commencement of the Bill. This Task Force would focus on applied interventions – including policy changes, tailored Social Protection mechanisms, and consumer campaigns – to support the sector. The Task Force would incorporate stakeholder representative bodies.