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SEA SOURCE/ ANIFPO

News Net

ANIFPO Celebrates 34 Years

On 20th July 2018 the Anglo-North Irish FPO Ltd/Sea Source marked its 34th birthday. Formed in 1984 into what in many ways was a totally different fisheries world, the Organisation has reflected the fortunes of its members with some good years, not so good years, opportunities and challenges.

There have been some noticeable developments in the history of the Organisation, one of the most recent ones being the deci-

sion by the members of the Fleetwood FPO to join with ANIFPO. This was a very welcome decision, with our new members officially joining on 1st January 2018.

For the Fleetwood members they see ANIFPO as offering enhanced representation across a range of issues, including Brexit. In addition, it opens new and we hope improved opportunities for quota management, not just for the Fleetwood members, but also the

original ANIFPO members. New marketing opportunities for Sea Source via our alliance with Hookstone are highlighted by the decision to have a joint stand at the Conxemar exhibition in Vigo, Spain from 2nd to 4th October 2018.

So, looking ahead opportunities and challenges will remain, just as they did in 1984. One thing for sure is that the members of the Anglo-North Irish and Fleetwood FPOs are to-

gether better equipped to handle these challenges. Our combined ethos is simple - the PO exists to benefit our members - reduced PO levy, reduced costs to rent quota, accessing valuable alternative opportunities for our members - all designed to maximise the economic viability of our members, their crews and the communities in which they are based.



ANIFPO Annual General Meeting

The Organisation's 2018 AGM was held in Sea Source Processing on 31st August.

The formal business included presentation of the group's accounts for the year ending 31st December 2017. Lowry Grant, PKF-FPM reported a good year for the group, with each component (PO, fish sales, offshore and processing) reporting a

profit, a result achieved in tandem with continuing development of the Organisation.

Finances

Mr. Grant advised that all accounts had been studied in detail by the Organisation's Board and had been the subject of extensive financial testing by his team. As a result he was able to report that financial controls

were strong and fully operational.

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It was noted the Organisation's workload had increased, with particular emphasis on Brexit related and crewing issues. This had necessitated increased travel. The amalgamation of the Fleetwood FPO into ANIFPO was not included in these accounts. It was recognised that while the Organisation continued in development mode the payment of a dividend to members was not appropriate. However, this was regarded as a sensible future option.

Upon completion of his report and approval of the accounts by the meeting, Lowry Grant (for PKF-FPM) was thanked for his work and reappointed as the Organisation's auditor for the current year.

PO Board

Another important feature of the AGM is the Election of Di-

rectors. There were two retirements from the Board this year; John Kearney and Gordon Campbell. Between them John and Gordon have voluntarily served almost 20 years on the PO's Board, during what has been a significant period of development for the group. It was noted that John was instrumental in establishing the fish sales division nearly 12 years ago.

Both John and Gordon were thanked for their service on the Board.

With the Fleetwood group joining, three members were appointed to the Board from amongst their ranks. These were Maria Hermida, Ricky Hermida and Alvaro Martinez. In addition Warren Campbell was nominated to the Board and we are pleased he has accepted this position. A full list

of the Organisation's new Board is;

- Trevor Annett
- Warren Campbell
- Alan Chambers
- Brian Chambers
- Maria Hermida
- Ricky Hermida
- Bobby McBride
- Neil McKee
- Alvaro Martinez
- Margaret More

A plea was made to all Board members to make an effort to attend Board meetings. The Organisation has grown and has become complex. This in turn requires a commitment by Board members, who make the decisions in terms of the direction of the entire Organisation.

The AGM also facilitates the opportunity for members to discuss a range of issues affecting them on a daily basis.

Crewing Issues—Immigration MP visits Kilkeel

Of course for the larger vessels in membership crewing issues, in particular access to qualified and experience crews from overseas, remains a critical matter. The Organisation was recently pleased to host Caroline Nokes MP the UK's Immigration Minister. Whilst the Organisation has met Ms Nokes in London, the Minister had asked to visit fishing communities in Scotland and Northern Ireland to learn at first hand about these issues. It was not expected the Minister would waive a magic wand during her visit and she didn't. Nevertheless, she recognised the issues and pointed towards policy decisions that will be made this autumn on the wider issue of post-Brexit immigration to the UK.

In the meantime, lobbying will continue on this issue. The Fishermen's Welfare Alliance, which is chaired by ANIFPO and represents industry, retailers and maritime charities from across the UK plan to meet the Parliamentary Home Affairs Committee in coming weeks. As the name suggests this Alliance is focused on issues that impact upon all fishermen regardless of their nationality. Safety issues are of paramount concern and the imminent introduction of the ILO C188 will be a central part of the Alliance's work in the months ahead.



Discards

The EU's Landing Obligation or discard ban will be implemented in full from 1st January 2019. All quota species are subject to the discard ban, except where exemptions apply.

Currently within the Irish Sea haddock and nephrops are subject to the discard ban. However, in the past few weeks the European Commission has agreed to an exemption for nephrops based upon the species high survivability rate when they are put back into the sea.

Despite Brexit, a discard ban will be maintained. No one should forget this policy was one proposed by the UK and adopted by the EU. Despite the widely acknowledged problems surrounding management of the policy, it remains an important feature of the UK's draft post Brexit fisheries policy. Practical steps designed to deal with discards will be introduced soon.



Processing

Having the AGM in the factory provided the opportunity for a demonstration of recent investments in the premises and a discussion around possible future investments. The installation of a new state-of-the-art grading machine and associated equipment has represented a significant vote of confidence in the Organisation's processing arm and it's future. Of course all members are welcome to visit the factory at anytime. After all, it is your factory and your money that's being spent in it!

Visitors from Scotland and UAE

As always it's great to welcome our industry colleagues to Kilkeel and Northern Ireland. Davie Anderson, CEO of the Aberdeen FPO is an auld friend and is proud to fly the flag—No Fishing Sell-Out.



We were delighted to welcome Alan O'Donnell and members of his team to Sea Source and Kilkeel harbour on Friday 10th August 2018. Alan has become a terrific ambassador for Northern Ireland Seafood and we are looking forward to the UAE launch of our joint venture the Irish Sea Food Company this month.

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