

Options put forward to RLIAC and Minister as per the WRLC Board of Directors meeting on Monday 3rd August:

Suggested Management Parameters for 2009-10

- These suggestions are based on the puerulus settlement for this current season 09/10 remaining at the record low levels of 08/09 and meeting the “STATED” management options of: Maintaining the egg production in each zone above the threshold now and with a 75% probability of still being above this level in five years time.
- These suggestions are based on the latest and best scientific advice available, (received on Monday 3rd August 2009) and take into account the outcomes of the WRLC Congress.
- These suggestions are designed to continue to move the fishery towards achieving MEY by dramatically increasing the “catch per unit effort”.

MAIN OBJECTIVE

Notional TACC of between 6000 tn and 6500 tn. Based on latest DoF figures and management objectives and certainty stated.

Suggested options to achieve main objective:

- Notional TACC for each Zone allocated as equitably as possible using management objectives, estimated season catches & average proportion of catch based on low catch years.
- Start Season: C Zone 25th November. B Zone 15th November.
- 3 Days off during Peaks. 2days off rest of season.
- Consider varying the 3 days off during the peak catch periods between the zones. E.g. zone B: Friday, Saturday, Sunday; zone C Saturday, Sunday, Monday.
- Peaks - Whites Peak 15th Dec to 15th Jan. Reds Peak 15th Mar to 15th April. Increase or decrease length of peaks to achieve objective.
- Pot Usage: should be fixed for Season once set, vary days or other measures if necessary to achieve objectives and Notional TACC.
 - C Zone: 50% if possible however down to 45% if required to achieve objective.
 - B Zone: 40%
 - A Zone : 40% (consider 3 days off to end of season instead of further pot reduction)
- If necessary close fishery from 25th December to 2nd January inclusive, this would take 4 days fishing out of the peak of the “WHITES” (the main objective of the package) it also gives an 11 day break over the Christmas period providing large cost reductions for processors. B Zone had indicated they wanted to keep Summer Closure, however would consider this.
- Consider 77mm gauge and 55mm escape gap all year (this had 50% for 50% against) this would have a significantly greater effect in the North therefore in conjunction, increase max female in North to 100mm.
- Consider 105 mm max female in C Zone and consider being able to catch females over 135mm (these were only ideas discussed not agreed upon).
- Review catch fortnightly and be willing and able to act quickly. Definitely review early as possible in January.
- Support proposed Post Puerulus research project to enhance information this should begin urgently to provide baseline data as soon as possible.
- Support the Big Bank closure area being shifted South (10-15 miles) and West.
- Amateurs Season should start same date as commercial season and consider closing amateurs after Easter.