



AN t-ÚDARÁS UM
CHOSAINT
IASCAIGH MHARA

SEA-FISHERIES
PROTECTION
AUTHORITY

Press Release

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Fishing Master Pleads Guilty to Fishing without a Valid Sea-Fishing Licence

A fishing vessel owner and master of the fishing vessel “Evan Martin” was convicted and fined €1,500 at Tralee District Court on the 23rd of July 2025 for engaging in sea-fishing without a sea-fishing licence. Martin Kelly, from Tralee, County Kerry, pleaded guilty to 14 charges of sea-fishing without a sea-fishing licence in respect of the vessel “Evan Martin”, in a period between the 7th of May and the 13th of August 2022.

The Court heard evidence from the Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) of 14 commercial sales of catches of lobster and crab from the vessel, with sales totalling €17,521, in the period during which the vessel was unlicensed. The Court heard the vessel has since been licensed.

An SFPA spokesperson commented:

“The SFPA notes the seriousness with which the Court attached to this offence. Adherence to sea-fishing licensing requirements is important to support the need to ensure a balance is struck between the State’s fishing capacity and fishing opportunities for sea-fishing vessels. These factors are important for the sustainable management and future fishing opportunities. The SFPA commends the Sea-Fisheries Protection Officers involved in the investigation.”

Ends

Further Information

About the SFPA

The Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) is the independent statutory body responsible for the regulation of the sea-fisheries and the sea-food production sectors. It promotes compliance with the EU Common Fisheries Policy, sea-fisheries law and food safety law relating to fish and fish products, verifies compliance and, where necessary, enforces it. Its mandate covers all fishing vessels operating within Ireland’s

200-mile limit, over 2,000 Irish registered fishing vessels wherever they operate, and all seafood produced in Ireland's seafood processing companies. The SFPA operates through a network of regional port offices situated at Ireland's main fishery harbours. For further information visit: www.sfpa.ie