



AN t-ÚDARÁS UM
CHOSAINT
IASCAIGH MHARA

SEA-FISHERIES
PROTECTION
AUTHORITY

Press Release

Issued by the Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority's Press Office

19th May 2025

Fishing Vessel Escorted to Castletownbere

Union Inspectors onboard the European Fisheries Control Agency's (EFCA) chartered patrol vessel *Ocean Guardian*, escorted a fishing vessel into the port of Castletownbere, Co Cork, this morning, the 19th May – this follows an inspection of the vessel at sea by the Union Inspectors on Sunday 18th May. The vessel has been handed over to An Garda Síochána, and assistance is being provided by the Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) in Castletownbere.

The patrol vessel is operating in Union waters within the Irish Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) as part of a Joint Deployment Programme between EFCA and Member States, including Ireland. Inspections are undertaken at sea on a risk-based approach focused on gear and fishing area. The SFPA in co-operation with EFCA undertakes planning and co-ordination of allocated resources to ensure that inspections are undertaken in line with the strategic risk assessment - this takes into account the status of exploited stocks, level of catches, and probability of non-compliance with the fisheries legislation in force.

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