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SEA-FISHERIES
PROTECTION
AUTHORITY

Press Release

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SFPA Updates Fisheries Information Notice on Sample Weighing of Demersal Stocks

The Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) recently updated a Fisheries Information Notice (FIN) on sample weighing of standardised boxes of demersal stocks. Sample weighing uses a representative sample of fishery products to determine the total weight of a species landed, reducing the volume of boxes that need to be weighed.

The updated FIN details the procedure for calculating sample sizes and conducting sample weighing. Stock risk assessments are used to determine the number of boxes to be sample weighed per fleet segment and fishing area. Stock risk assessments are updated annually and are available on the SFPA website.

Only certain demersal species landed in standardised boxes qualify for sample weighing under Ireland's national Control and Sampling Plans. Products landed in non-standardised containers such as lobster, crayfish, crab species, whelk, and molluscs cannot be sample weighed. In addition, products stored and transported in bulk cannot be sample weighed and must be weighed in full.

Operators that carry out sample weighing should familiarise themselves with the FIN. The SFPA is committed to supporting compliance with both new and existing legislation and are available to provide guidance. For assistance or further details on the FIN, please contact: sfpafood&fisheriessupport@sfpa.ie

Ends

Note to Editor

The FIN can be accessed on sfpa.ie and by clicking this link:

[Fishery Information Notice \(FIN\) on sample weighing of standardised boxes of demersal stocks.](#)

Stock risk assessments are available on the SFPA website at the following link: [Weighing of Fishery Products | Sea Fisheries Protection Authority](#).

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