

Northern Ireland Fishing Safety Forum (NIFSF)

Terms of Reference February 2018

Northern Ireland Fishing Safety Forum - priorities and targets

1. The health, safety and welfare of fishermen is our paramount concern and our target is to achieve zero fishing-related deaths in Northern Ireland.
2. The NIFSF will develop industry-led initiatives and projects to address the most significant causes of loss of life and vessel accidents.
3. To identify these key causes the Committee will review the relevant HSE, FISG, MAIB and RNLI fishing safety statistics and reports on an annual basis.

Northern Ireland Fishing Safety Forum - Terms of Reference and representation

1. Core NIFSF membership shall comprise of representatives from regional, constituted Fishermen's Associations in NI and representatives of the mussel farming industry through the Aquaculture Representative Group (ARG).
2. Other organisations that have a direct interest in the safety of the fishing vessels and their crews, such as Seafish, SFITA, DAERA, NIFHA, MAIB, MCA, RNLI, Aquaculture Initiative and the Fishermen's Mission will be invited as Associate Committee members and will attend to support the work of the NIFSF.
3. Fishermen's Association representation on the NIFSF shall, as far as is practicable, reflect both geographical and relevant sector interests across the industry as a whole.
4. An open invitation is made to all Northern Irish commercial fishermen, regardless of their affiliation to an Association or not, to attend and observe Committee meetings should they wish to submit a paper to the Committee about a particular issue or concern.
5. Other organisations may be invited to attend NIFSF meetings if items are relevant to its work. However to become a permanent member of NIFSF an organisation shall provide evidence of its geographical and relevant sectoral interests. The existing Fishermen's Association representatives on NIFSF shall then agree on whether to admit the organisation to full membership. The decision shall be by majority vote, and, in the event of a tie the Committee Chair shall have the casting vote.

Meeting arrangements

1. The NIFSF shall meet twice a year or as required and six weeks' notice of each meeting will be given to members.
2. If a serious incident should occur, the group will be convened at short notice to examine the circumstances and discuss actions to be taken and any lessons that can be learned.
3. NIFSF meetings will be chaired by an elected Chair or, in his absence, by his nominated deputy and where possible, unless otherwise mutually agreed, Seafish shall provide the Secretariat for all meetings of the NIFSF.
4. The Secretariat will normally circulate draft agendas for NIFSF meetings to Committee members and Associated Committee members four weeks in advance of meetings with an invitation to propose additional items.
5. NIFSF meeting papers will be issued via email by the Secretariat normally 2 weeks prior to a meeting.
6. The Secretariat will normally issue draft meeting notes within one month of a NIFSF meeting. The final minutes will be agreed at the subsequent meeting and published on a dedicated NIFSF section of the Seafish NI website.