



The Fishermen's Mission in Northern Ireland

The Fishermen's Mission charity has been providing practical and spiritual support to fishermen and their families for well over a century. In 1881, the Fishermen's Mission (also known as the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen - RNMDSF) began its work by going out in a fleet of boats offering food and medical supplies to fishermen while they worked, trying to provide some comfort and support in often terrible conditions on board fishing vessels.



The fishing industry has undergone many changes over the years and the Fishermen's Mission has always responded accordingly, nowadays providing 24-hour 'mini-centres' with good facilities and welfare offices covering the coastline of the UK.

The history of the Fishermen's Mission Centres in Northern Ireland dates back to 1998 when a mini-centre was established in Kilkeel. Since then, further centres have been established in Ardglass and Portavogie. The centres and the facilities they provide are well used by local and migrant fishermen and by the fishing communities to host events and meetings.



The Fishermen's Mission care for fishermen and their families in many practical ways whilst continuing to offer spiritual and emotional support. They also maintain an emergency response service which is vital when tragedy strikes a fishing community. The 'Mission Man or Woman' is often one of the first people called in an emergency and the support provided is always greatly appreciated by those involved and the wider fishing communities.

The Seafish Board meet at the Kilkeel Fishermen's Mission Centre



For more information on the Fishermen's Mission see www.fishermensmission.org.uk and to contact the Fishermen's Mission in Northern Ireland:

Superintendents Lesley Hammond and Ingrid Perry
 33 The Harbour, Kilkeel,
 Co. Down BT34 4AX
 T: +44 (0) 28 4176 9000
 E: kilkeelcentre@fishermensmission.org.uk

For more information on the Northern Irish seafood industry:

Dr Lynn Gilmore, Seafish
 T: +44 (0) 7966 585 816
 E: lynn.gilmore@seafish.co.uk
 Twitter: @SeafishLynn



Mission Superintendents Lesley Hammond and Ingrid Perry (top) and Kilkeel Centre event (bottom)