

## Overview of the new RFS

**A. OVERALL OBJECTIVE – “The Responsible Fishing Scheme will promote a responsible fishing industry assuring good practice from sea to quayside and contribute to its long-term viability.”**

### **B. KEY AREAS OF CONCERN**

#### **1. Safety, health and welfare (Reduce accidents & fatalities; promote respect & integrity)**

- Health and safety paramount (core to RFS)
- Demonstrate commitment to culture of integrity and respect (eg no forced labour)
- RFS “Code of Practice” to be established drawing on other relevant safety management initiatives

#### **2. Training/professional development (Training; continuous improvement for a better future)**

- Covers mandatory training for the key priority areas, especially on Safety
- Promote culture of responsible fishing via professional development (eg innovation; efficiency; value)
- Learn from other standards (complement not duplicate experience, eg oil & gas)
- Confirm commitment to cooperate with management authorities so that RFS becomes a channel of influence and is recognised and supported by them

#### **3. The vessel and its mission (Demonstrate due diligence; seek to apply best practice)**

- Confirm commitment to implementing relevant management measures (eg fishing area; catch species; gear type etc)
- Are the vessel and its gear fit for purpose (seaworthiness etc)?
- Is it all legal with the right documentation in place?

#### **4. Treating fish as food (Focus on supply of safe, wholesome product with known provenance)**

- Care of catch: hygienic handling and storage (incl for live products)
- Fully traceable from catch to quayside
- Confirm commitment to maintaining the value of the catch

#### **5. Care for the environment (Behave responsibly, respecting the environment)**

- Responsible practice (tie-in with voluntary schemes; supporting fishery science by science partnerships, observers etc. as well as managing litter; recording wildlife interaction, etc)
- To promote and advertise existing good fishing and other environmentally focused practices
- Commit to conservation of fish and shellfish stocks by responsible stewardship of the marine environment

#### Note

- One size fits all won't work; RFS need to take account of different vessel types/sectors
- Good Practice Guides may need to be reviewed & revised, but this won't impact on the current RFS process (except auditor may seek evidence of understanding/commitment)