

# **THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

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**Ballymiscaw**  
**Stormont**

**03 July 2013**  
**24454/11-15**

**Chris Hazzard asked:**

To ask the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what measures her Department has taken in order to protect and enhance the local fishing industry, in the last five years.

**ANSWER**

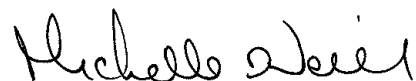
Over the last five years my Department has helped to protect and enhance the local fishing industry in a number of ways.

Through the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute my Department has carried out research into fish stocks around our coast to provide scientific evidence to try to maintain and increase the quotas available to our fleet. Significant investment in camera surveys of Nephrops grounds and acoustic surveys of Irish Sea herring stocks has allowed us to prove that these stocks are being fished sustainably. The additional work on herring will also enable the industry to obtain Marine Stewardship Council accreditation and thereby secure future markets.

Since the implementation of the Cod Recovery Plan from 2008 our prawn fleet's base level of fishing days has been cut by two thirds. However by working closely with the industry on cod conservation measures, such as highly selective gear, my Department has been able to justify to the Commission the allocation of sufficient additional Days at Sea to allow the fleet to take its fishing opportunities. Whilst the adjustments have been difficult at times the alternative is to fish on only a third of the days presently fished or adopt extreme gear that the fleet finds unworkable.

In relation to the inshore sector, my Department has been working with stakeholders to develop a draft Sustainable Development Strategy for Inshore Fisheries which is currently out to consultation. The aim of the strategy is, in partnership with the industry and other stakeholders, to help manage and develop the inshore sector in a sustainable way and place it in a position to be able to take up future opportunities as they arise.

My Department has also provided direct financial assistance to enhance the fishing industry over the last five years and this is presented in the table at Annex A (placed in library). Programmes of investment such as the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) are developed in co-operation with local stakeholders to identify investment priorities. This work has already commenced for the successor to the EFF, the European and Maritime Fisheries Fund, involving an initial local stakeholder workshop.



**MICHELLE O'NEILL MLA**

**ANNEX A**

## Funding provided to the NI Fishing Industry 2009 to 2013

**A1. European Fisheries Fund**

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013 (to 31 May)</b>
Investments on board fishing vessels and selectivity	£0	£0	£67,558	£347,904	£57,364
Small-scale coastal fishing	£0	£0	£0	£10,374	£5,532
Productive investments in aquaculture	£0	£0	£59,210	£261,875	£28,887
Investments in processing and marketing	£0	£120,800	£282,946	£599,853	£59,459
Collective actions	£0	£205,980	£325,814	£623,691	£74,714
Protection and development of aquatic fauna and flora	£0	£259,210	£0	£287,400	£269,730
Fishing ports, landing sites and shelters	£0	£700,192	£164,124	£1,916,063	£225,233

## A2. Other Funding

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013 (to 31 May)
Electronic logbook scheme – European technical assistance funds	£0	£0	£6,000	£226,000	£2,000
Hardship Scheme – NI Executive funded	£723,991	£0	£0	£0	£0
FIFG Collective Operations	£42,925	£0	£0	£0	£0
FIFG Aquaculture	£21,164	£0	£0	£0	£0
FIFG Processing and Marketing	£98,696	£0	£0	£0	£0
FIFG Joint Marketing (promotions)	£844	£0	£0	£0	£0