

## The South - West View



Patrick Murphy, Chief Executive of the Irish South and West Fishermen's Organisation, discusses "ever-increasing legislation" on the fishing industry and says that the fishing industry should be given the credit and respect it does providing food, but is concerned about the effects that Coronavirus could have on trade.

### Coronavirus - the most mentioned word around the world in recent weeks.

What has this to do with fishing you may wonder but for me a lot, the shutting down of society and locking of doors will surely interrupt trade, all trade.

What provisions are made for this oncoming fallout, quarantine may prevent the spread and help us avoid the virus, but will we see food shortages instead?

Already we see the devastating effect it is having on the Chinese economy. We sell

a lot of fish in this developing market.

It has reached Europe and Italy, another important market, which has seen areas in lock-down. In one interview I heard of whole towns under quarantine.



Velvet Chord II - Photo by Alan O'Shea

## 'Wellness' in Seafarers and Fishermen to Be Discussed at National Maritime College

Over 1.5 million seafarers play a vital part in the supply chain which keeps national and international economies operational.

Food, fuel, and everyday goods are transported in thousands of ships worldwide, around the clock. There is little room for error which could result in loss of life, injury, pollution, and delays. The maritime industry is safety critical and depends on professional people to minimize incidents, including human error.

A Seafarer Wellness Conference to address human factors in the maritime industry will be held in the National Maritime College of Ireland (NMCI), Ringaskiddy, Cork, on Thursday, March 26.

The conference will also deal with 'wellness' training for sea and shore staff in the fishing industry.

Organised by the Department of Maritime Studies NMCI/CIT, the Irish Institute of Master Mariners and the Nautical Institute, the conference will be the first of its kind to be held in Ireland.

National and international speakers will include Dr Joanne McVeigh who will talk about psychosocial well-being amongst merchant seafarers - well-being, resilience, job satisfaction and stress;

Prof. Mac MacLachlan, Editor of Maritime Psychology, Professor of Psychology and Social Inclusion and Director of the ALL (Assisting Living & Learning Institute) at Maynooth and previously Chair in Global Health at Trinity; Dr Chris Haughton, Master Mariner, who will talk about the development of a standard for mental health awareness and wellness training for sea and shore staff in the Merchant Navy and Fishing Industry; Dr Rudi Stolz, Consultant Occupational Medicine at Shell Health and Dr Fiona O'Halloran who will address issues around diet and nutrition.

Leading experts in the area, including medical professionals, psychologists, researchers, and professional seafarers will generate discussion, debate and suggest solutions to address the human factors that influence life on board ships.

Maritime stakeholders, medical professionals and anyone interested in human factors will find the conference informative.

Tickets may be reserved at Eventbrite: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/seafarer-wellness-are-the-signals-being-read-tickets-90925080363](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/seafarer-wellness-are-the-signals-being-read-tickets-90925080363)

This Industry, after suffering from severe storms in the first two months of 2020, resulting in huge losses from no access to fishing, will face this increasing threat. But not a word of a plan for these effects. We see recent restrictions that only worsen the fear by stifling travel for our sports enthusiasts through the calling-off of the rugby game between Ireland and Italy.

Should we not ask the relevant question, what travel will be restricted next? Will it be for those who drive the lorries? But I ask what do these lorries carry?

I do not want to add to any hysteria, but I do wish to see recognition to what is the absent response we are witnessing to date and we need to start preparing.

This Industry is facing ever-increasing legislation and the recent but relevant topic we are addressing is the 'Single Use Plastic Directive' which has set eyes on plastics used in our Industry.

Bubbling below the surface is this emerging concern of the microplastics and again not wanting to link the two but there is some hysteria about plastics in our oceans. Do not get me wrong certainly the issue needs immediate addressing.

In some countries the first three hauls are to get the plastic out the way before you get the fish and we are shown the pictures of the young man swimming through the sea of plastics. This is not the case here yet, thank God.

Food for me is the most important commodity on our planet, the air we breathe, the water we drink, but also food we eat nurtures and sustains the bod. Add heat and shelter and we survive quite well.

So why are the hard working people in our Industry the first expected to respond?

I will leave that to the reader to answer for themselves.

I will say this, thankfully we have proven time and time again we are ready to act, no matter what adversities we face, they are taken head on.

I know, like the weather beaten rock hit over-and-over again by the stormy sea, the damage is visible but like the rock we are worn smooth but not broken, for this serves a purpose adding oxygen to the water.

Society need the brave men and women who risk their lives to catch the healthy tasty nutritious food to feed them. Fishermen are showing that they have no problem to do more when challenged, by picking up and bringing ashore the hundreds of tonnes of plastic garbage that make it into our seas annually.

I say, however, do not penalise us in only taxing the gear, the nets we use to do this voluntary work and take a moment to see what is being done and as my Grandmother used to say regularly

"Give credit when credit is due".

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### APPLICATION FOR A FORESHORE LICENCE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 19 of the Foreshore Act, 1933 that Energia Renewables ROI Ltd., The Liberty Centre, Blanchardstown Retail Park, Dublin D15 YT2H has applied to the Minister of Housing, Planning and Local Government for a licence under Section 3 of the said Act for site investigation survey works in the South Irish Sea off the Co. Wexford/Wicklow coastline.

A copy of the application, and the relevant maps, plans, and drawings, are available for inspection for the next 30 days, free of charge, at **Wexford Garda Station**, Mulgannon, Wexford Town, Co. Wexford; **Gorey Garda Station**, Main Street, Gorey, Co. Wexford and **Arklow Garda Station**, Abbey Street, Arklow, Co. Wicklow.

The documentation is available on the Department's website

<https://www.housing.gov.ie/planning/foreshore/applications/energia-site-investigation-wexford-coast>

Any person who wishes to make an objection to, or a representation in respect of the grant of the licence sought should do so in writing, giving reasons, between the dates of 4<sup>th</sup> March and 6<sup>th</sup> April (quoting ref: FS 007048), to the Marine Planning Policy and Development Section, Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, Newtown Road, Wexford, Co. Wexford or [foreshore@housing.gov.ie](mailto:foreshore@housing.gov.ie). The closing date for submissions is close of business on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

All objections and representations received will be forwarded to the applicant for comment prior to any decision being made in the matter. Material upon which the Minister shall determine this application may be published on the Department's website. In this regard the Department wishes to draw attention to its policy on defamatory material that may be contained in submissions it receives, which may be found at: <http://www.housing.gov.ie/planning/foreshore/public-participation-foreshore-consent-process>

Dated this 4<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020

Name and address:  
Energia Renewables ROI Ltd.,  
The Liberty Centre, Blanchardstown Retail Park,  
Dublin, D15 YT2H