

*West`s Seafoods Ltd*

*Shellfish Merchants*

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*To The Committee,*

*Re: Technical panel meeting regarding whelks.*

*This was a good meeting with good discussions from committee, experts and fishermen. The summary as you know from the committee and experts was to keep to 300 pots, increase the size of escape hole and increase the minimum width of the whelk to 25mm. If the whelk width is increased then the whelks that are caught will be halved, this will not make it viable for whelk fishermen to survive.*

*My recommendation would be to increase the size of the whelk from 22mm to 25mm over 3 years (1mm per year). Standardise the length and width of the riddles so all vessels are the same.*

*Whelk pots should be increased by 50 pots per year for 3 years so fishermen should still make it viable with the increase in the shell size over the 3 years (this will still be less pots than our neighbouring IFCAS).*

*Boats at the best are only turning over approximately £400.00 per day with over £100.00 spent on bait, £100.00 worth of fuel so only leaving £200.00 for crew and maintenance.*

*Yours Sincerely*

*M. West*