

Recommendation paper

Title: Loligo fishery: Closure of Northern Area

Date: 14th April 2021

Report of: Licensing Officer, DNR

Background:

The loligo first season generally operates between the 24th February to the 28th April. In 2021 the start of the season was delayed by 2 days due to forecast bad weather, so the season dates were amended to 26th February to the 30th April.

Presentation and Consultation:

DNR and SFS met with LPG on 8th April and presented a brief with a recommendation that the fishery close early to improve the stability of Loligo catches for the following seasons, as a significant proportion of small squid belonging to the recruitment of the next season were being caught in high numbers. DNR suggested the fishery close on the 18th April. Subsequent feedback from LPG was that they preferred to leave the season open and see what happened.

Recommendations:

DNR continued to review catches and on the 13th April circulated an email to industry advising that due to the continued high catches of small squid, in the loligo area to the north of 52°s would be closed for 2 weeks on the 14th April at 0001 hours. This was to be reviewed after 2 weeks.

On 27th April this closure was reviewed and with data from XSAN a notification was sent to industry that the northern area would remain closed due to the small size of the squid being caught and the strong presence of Illex.

Note: the closure of the northern area of the loligo box follows a pattern with early closures in 2019 on the 25th April and 22nd April in 2020.

Approved



Dr Andrea Clausen
Director