



PRESS RELEASE

On 28th August 2015 Paul Foster, Ashington DOB 08/05/1981 and Stephen Willis, Guidepost, Choppington, DOB 18/05/1981 appeared at North Tyneside Magistrates Court in a prosecution brought by Northumberland Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority ("NIFCA") for an offence of landing 21 lobsters below the minimum landing size of 87cm, contrary to Regulation (EC) 850/1998 and by taking that number of lobsters they had also exceeded the maximum permitted daily number of 1 lobsters per day contrary to NIFCA Byelaw 13. In presenting the case to the Court for NIFCA, Mr Noel Dilks stressed the seriousness of the offence in relation to the importance of conserving lobster stocks in the NIFCA district, both for the benefit of the marine environment but also because the lobster fishery is an extremely important one in the NIFCA district.

Having heard details of the case, the Court ordered Mr Willis to pay a total of £1,045 including legal costs. Mr Foster was ordered to pay £780 including costs.

Speaking after the case Chief Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer Al Browne confirmed the support of NIFCA towards those who fish legally, but that Authority resources will be properly applied to the detection and enforcement of breaches of Byelaws and other regulations which threaten the fishery. Mr Browne also acknowledged that the Financial Penalty is a substantial one and shows the Court's recognition of the work of the Authority and the damage which is done by offences such as this.

END OF PRESS RELEASE

Northumberland Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

8 Ennerdale Road

Blyth

NE24 4RT

W: www.nifca.gov.uk

E: nifca@nifca.gov.uk

T: 01670 797 676