



Marine Management Organisation

Board Meeting Minutes: 11th November 2021

Location- Tyneside House

MMO Board

Hilary Florek (HF) – Chair
Belinda Howell (BH)
Bill Dickson (BD)
David Lyall (DL)
Peter Judge (PJ)
Terence Jagger (TJ)
Tony Delahunty (TD)
William Roberts (WR) -Audit * Risk Assurance Committee Chair

MMO Executive Leadership Team

Tom McCormack (TMc) – Chief Executive Officer
Stephanie Campbell (SC) – Director of Digital and Analysis
Jenny Stewart (JS) –Director of Planning and Change
Michelle Willis (MW) – Director of Finance and Resources
Michael Coyle (MC) – Director of Operations
Selina Stead (SS) – Chief Scientific Advisor
Trudi Wakelin (TW) – Director of Licensing, Marine Planning and Blue Belt

Presenters

Simon Dixon (SD) MMO
Rebecca Kavanagh (RK) MMO
Paul Gilliland (PG) MMO
Rachel Brown (RB) MMO
Richard Hoskins (RH) MMO
Robbie Fisher (RF) (Defra)

Defra

Mike Rowe (MR) - Director, Marine and Fisheries

Apologies

Robert Wilson (RW) – Remuneration Committee Chair

Board Secretariat

Danielle Lee-Moulding (DLM)

Governance

1. Welcome and Introductory Remarks

1.1 HF welcomed all, advised we would be observing one minutes silence.

2. Declaration of Interests

2.1 SS advised of new position at Leeds university as Executive Dean for the Faculty of the Environment. Also advised she has been advising the Australian Government on Blue Economy. PJ reconfirmed his new position as Chair of the Advisory Board at Oppurtuni Ni. TD temporary position as Chair of NFFO has now ended.

3. Minutes and actions of previous meeting.

3.1 To be circulated ahead of next board due to technical issues.

Operational & Financial

4. CEO Update

4.1 TMC gave CEO update. Financial position at present driven by staffing issue, the pressure on colleague and the delivery impact this in turn causes. Update given on commercial vessels- handover was successful and occurred during issues with the French fishing fleet.

4.2 Acknowledged high volume of vacancies and work is ongoing regards the recruitment timeline on how we can streamline this and make it more effective and productive. There is a high level of temporary contracts that the business is hoping to resolve imminently, but this is limited by the previous SR limiting planning due to the one-year settlement.

4.3 TMC encouraged and welcomed input from MMOB on new and different ways of attracting and retaining workforce, confirming pay grades for specialist roles continues to be an issue. Terms and conditions are also an issue when transferring from department to department.

Action- HF asked for an independent review into the recruitment and attrition situation that has been reported. This should be externally commissioned, and the Scope will be developed prior to this in January MMOB.

5. MMO Finance, Performance, Change, Risk and Assurance – Mid-Year Summary

5.1 JS spoke to paper explaining performance data advising a Performance Framework is being created to discuss with Strategy Sub Group.

5.2 JS updated on Fishing Export Service /FES 2 with funding availability next year and an offer to keep working closely on this going forward, collectively resolving problems and having positive conversations.

5.3 MW updated on finance position. European Maritime Fisheries Fund and Maritime Fisheries Fund are fully committed and cashed up with EMFF running until 2023 and MFF until the end of 2021. There has been soft engagement in terms of UK Infrastructure with a formal launch in January 2022 when a session will be needed with MMOB.

5.4 Audit plans ongoing, Gi AA Health & Safety audit is underway alongside the governance audit

and a light touch FASS assurance which we ourselves have requested for good governance and reassurance. Risk KPI's are in progress.

6. MMO Commercial Vessels Contract

6.1 Tender actioned in line with Governance Commercial framework to ensure full compliance and adherence to protocols. H& S remains of paramount importance, we are still working with the RN to be able to undertake offshore surveillance adhering to our repatriated functions. Sentinel the preferred supplier for the new contract award are well experienced in this area.

Decision- Board discussed proposal and to support the award of Commercial Vessel contract to Sentinel.

7. Fisheries Statistics 2020

7.1 Presentation by Simon Dixon and Rebecca Kavanagh outlining key headlines and trends throughout the covid pandemic, highlighting changes throughout the time period and how this has reflected in the wider fisheries sector.

8. Defra View from the Bridge

8.1 MR acknowledged success of continued collaboration with Defra and MMO. Acknowledging the work on both sides in the recent French fishing issues with talks ongoing to fully resolve.

9. Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS) and Fishery Management Plans (FMP's)

9.1 Richard Hoskin (RH) MMO and Robbie Fisher (RF) Defra presented an update on the Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS) and how the Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) will play a significant role in determining how the UK manages its fisheries post-Brexit.

9.2 Position noted by MMOB

Closing Matters

10. AOB

10.1 No items to discuss. Chair closed meeting.

