

REGIONAL FISHERIES GROUP

Meeting Notes 12th January 2023

South 7d

15:00 – 17:00 MS Teams Conference Call

Attendees:

INDUSTRY

Charlie Brock
Dave Dunn
David Curtis
Mark M
Martin Cure
Neil Whitley
Pete Dadds
Ted Legg
Tom Russell
Amy Trakos
Matt Wyles

Defra:

Andrew Carroll
Freya Mitchison
Lydia Osborne
Phil McBryde

MCA:

Chris D'Alcorn
Laurence Capstick

Cefas:

Sophie Philips

IFCA:

Sarah Birchenough
Nick Rogers

MMO:

Rebecca Thomas
Caley McIntosh
Dan Wardle
Eleanor Holford
Emily Theobald
Katie James
Laura Fairless
Louise Price

- **Welcome, Introduction and actions and updates – Paul Johnson (MMO)**
- Happy New Year

Actions from last meeting:

- Defra are analysing the feedback from the fly seining consultation and will update accordingly
- HPMA's Defra expect to publish a summary of responses early 2023 and will email with update
- Progress on Bass FMP: Phil McBryde will answer questions late on in this meeting
- Demersal NAS FMP: Rachel Thirlwall will update later in this meeting
- **Quota – Katie James (MMO)**



South 7d Quota
Presentation Jan 23.r

Katie James from the Quota Management team (MMO) updated the group on quota allocations for the coming year. Presentation can be found below:

Katie gave an update on the uptake of Cod for 7d, Plaice for 7d & e, Skates and Rays 7d, Undulate Ray 7d & e, Sole 7d, Western Mackerel, Herring 4c/7d and explained the allocations.

Question from Industry: *Welsh additional quota wasn't used last year. How is the additional quota being utilised?* Katie responded, concerns and queries from industry were fed back and will be passed up to Defra.

Question from Industry: *It would be nice if we could land Porbeagle as we catch them often with Mullet and we must slip it.* Katie responded, at the moment, you can't and there are no plans to open that fishery

If anyone has any questions surrounding quota in the South, please contact katie.james@marinemanagement.org.uk.

- **Channel Update – Rachel Thirlwall (MMO)**

Rachel Thirlwall gave an update on the Demersal Non-quota species fisheries management plan. Rachel explained that the FMP is one of the front-runners from Defra, and MMO are the lead delivery partner of this FMP. The species included in the FMP are in the presentation below. The FMP team have had working group meetings, and these are helping to draft and review certain parts of the FMP. The working group wants to see fishers involved early, to utilise their knowledge.

In the November working group, they focussed on the vision and goals of the FMP. Fishers mentioned they want to see more mention of coastal communities in the FMP. The group were also asked what goals they wanted, and they specifically mentioned the precautionary principle and using this to develop the FMP.

A summary of the working group feedback can be found here: [FMP working group](#).



NQS.pdf

The presentation can be found here:

Question from Industry: *The Isle of White isn't on this list of engagement events, I will enquire with a contact to see if anyone is interested and maybe you could organise a trip to the isle of white?* Rachel responded, we will get in contact with the member of industry that raised the point and get it organised.

Question from Industry: *You have put out goals and vision from the working group, is this a public document yet as it would be good to send to people before the outreach sessions?* Rachel responded, we will release the fully drafted goals to the working group before we go to the groups. We will be publishing the drafted goals with all the comments we have received so you can see how we have built upon comments.

Question from Industry: *There wasn't much notice with the Policylab stakeholder engagement Bass FMP, so can you put the dates out again, so stakeholders have plenty of time to put them in their diaries please.* Rachel responded, Yes, the dates will be coming out on social media next week and in newsletter and will be sent in emails.

Question from Industry: *Mullet is not in the channel plan – is that something that is locked in stone due to the Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS) or is that something that could change?* Rachel responded that she is not sure what the plan is for the species mentioned but there is scope to change. It may be included in future FMPs based on stakeholder feedback. MMO will look into gathering economic data for the value of it for recreational fishers.

Question from Industry: *Can you fit a visit into Poole?* We are going to Poole so we will edit the list of locations shown today.

- **MCA Q&A – Laurence Capstick**

Laurence Capstick from the MCA provided a Q&A with industry.

A member of industry raised that the enforcement rules and advice for fishing vessels is inconsistent among surveyors. Laurence responded that variation in size of vessels is a major challenge. There is a centralised process for the same size of vessel to ensure consistency across fleet. Individual surveyors will issue a short-term certificate and the decision will be referred to headquarters.

A member of industry raised that first aid kits requirements are inconsistent among surveyors. Laurence responded, that sealed units can be used or you can maintain your equipment separately by creating a personalised kit at a pharmacy. More information can be found here: [MSN 1905 \(M+F\) Application of ships' medical stores regulations 1995 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

A member of industry asked about inspection changes. Laurence responded that from the 5th November 2023 new measures will be in place. More information can be found here: [MGN 503 Amendment No.1 \(F\) Procedure for Carrying out Small Fishing Vessel Stability Tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

A member of industry asked about the medical examination and certification for fishermen. Information can be found here: [MSN 1883 \(F\) Amendment 1: Work in fishing convention \(No. 188\): Medical examination and certification for fishermen - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Laurence also stated that Employed or self-employed fishers must have a fishermen's work agreement.

A member of industry asked about grants and funding. Michael from the grants team explained that information will be released soon but please see Appendix 3 for current information.

For any further questions contact laurence.capstick@mcga.gov.uk

Generic email contact for South Hampton Marine Office: Southampton marine office, Spring Place, 105 Commercial Road, Southampton, SO15 1EG. Email southamptonmo@mcga.gov.uk

- **King Scallop Closure – Sarah Bedingham (MMO)**

Sarah Bedingham from the Fisheries Management Team highlighted that there is a **call for evidence** on proposals for a king scallop dredge fishery closures in ICES area 7d and Lyme Bay area of 7e in summer of 2023.

The proposed closures are to protect the stock during spawning in area 7d and limit depletion of the stock in area 7e due to displacement of fishing effort.

MMO is leading this consultation on behalf of the UK Fisheries Administrations, and has been working closely with Defra, Cefas and SICG to provide proposals for the length of the closures and supporting scientific information.

A range of closure lengths (from 15 May or 1 July or 1 August to 30 September) has been suggested in part due as a response to a EU seasonal closure in EU waters of area 7d and some of 7e from 15 May to 30 September and the concern of displacement into UK waters due to the EU closure.

The call for evidence will be published week **commencing 23rd January** via the MMO website, social media, and the Fisheries bulletin. The MMO fisheries management team (FMT) are also working with the MMO Communications team to produce a physical document package for distribution.

FMT invite you all to engage with the call for evidence and share the call for evidence announcement with your stakeholders and customers. FMT are available to meet to discuss the proposed closures if that would be useful.

If you have any questions regarding the process, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

You can email effort@marinemanagement.org.uk

A member of industry raised concerns over the closure. Sarah responded that if industry members can encourage as many people as possible to submit evidence on how the closure will affect them then all points can be considered going forward.

AOB- Paul Johnson (MMO)

- **Nick Rogers from Sussex IFCA** – Call for information on a proposed MCZ in Sussex. Email admin@sussex-ifca.gov.uk
- There was a discussion on Bass and spawning aggregations. Bass must be caught within existing legislation. Evidence is reported to the legal team from enforcement officers and the legal team make decisions on prosecutions using the compiled information.
- IFCA's across England are looking to recruit general members. The general member roles are voluntary roles and are appointed from various sectors (commercial fisheries, marine environment specialists, recreational fisheries and anything else i.e. divers). The link to the job role and how to apply can be found here: [Exciting opportunity to participate in the management of inshore fisheries and marine conservation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/exciting-opportunity-to-participate-in-the-management-of-inshore-fisheries-and-marine-conservation). If you have any questions about these roles and how to get involved with IFCA's, please contact leanne.tan@marinemanagement.org.uk.
 - a. **The closing date is 13th February.**

Appendix 1:

The i-VMS project is progressing whilst independent testing is taking place on the 4 type approved devices, fishers can still research and order devices during this period.

The funding for the devices is available until the 4th May 2023.

The SI has not been laid or implemented as of yet but with a view towards this being set for later in the year.

Update on IVMS can be found here:



IVMS.pdf

Appendix 2:

Schemes/ grants which might be useful for the inshore fleet/non-sector.

We've seen a healthy uptake in FaSS2 which opened for applications in April this year and continues to be available for prospective applicants up until March 2025.

If you are interested in applying please contact the grants team at FaSS.queries@marinemanagement.org.uk to discuss their project.

We have 3 confirmed panel dates for 2023 for those projects where the total cost exceeds £150,000, listed below.

Finally, there is a phasing in period for safety rails and non-slip deck which are two common items in Health and Safety apps we often receive. MCA have confirmed that these items will become mandatory on 5th September 2023 so for any vessel that isn't classed as new (built after 6 September 2021) applicants can apply for these items until that 5th September date.

3 Panels		
Deadline	Panel	Days between
31/01/2023	23/03/2023	51
31/05/2023	26/07/2023	56
30/09/2023	21/11/2023	52

Appendix 3:

The UK Seafood Fund (UKSF) are providing two rounds of funding.

UKSF Round 2 closed on February 3rd, 2023.

UKSF Round 3 opened Friday 27th January and will be focused on fleet modernization and engine replacement for the SSCF. Defra held an industry webinar recently and have circulated a Q&A document about Round 3 which can be found here:



Fleet Modernisation
QA.pdf

If you would like to ask further questions you can register and submit questions on the system here:
<https://scis.marineservices.org.uk/workbench.ofml>

Appendix 4:

Guidance on marking of fishing gear, retrieval, and notification of lost gear

Information can be found here: [Marking of fishing gear, retrieval and notification of lost gear - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

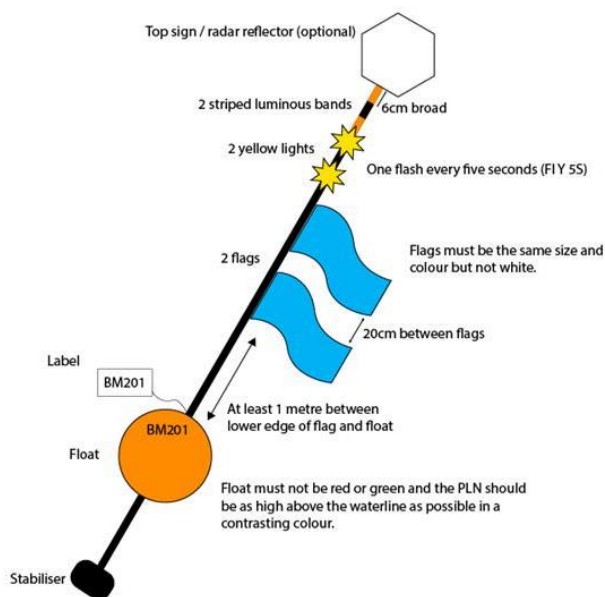


Figure 1: Diagram of a western sector marker buoy

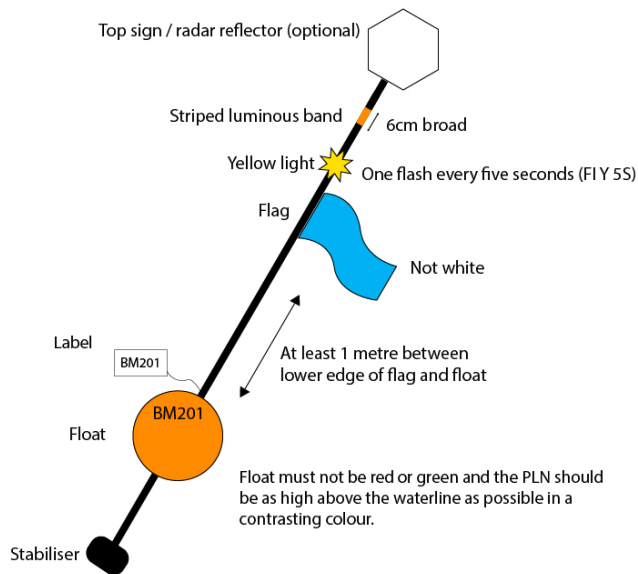


Figure 2: diagram of an eastern sector marker buoy

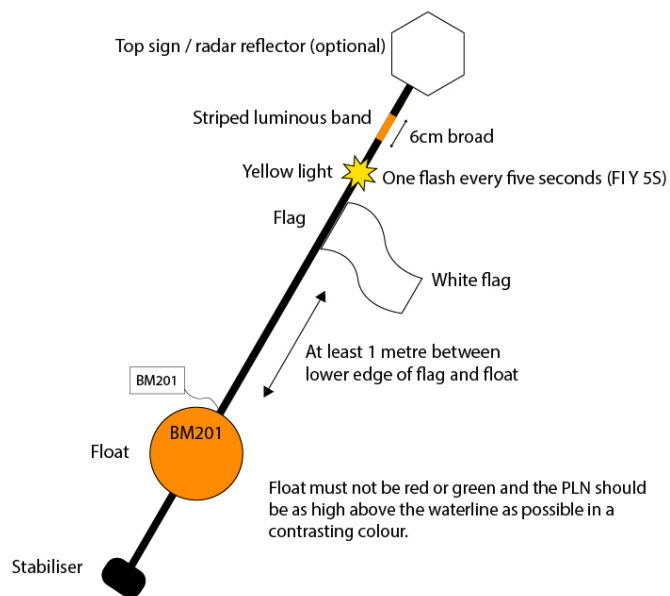


Figure 3: diagram of an intermediary marker buoy

Other useful resources:

[How to Label \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

[Boarding Ladder infographic \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

[Electronic Logbook V5 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

[How to complete a Paper Log Book \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)